Press Release

Brussels, 09 June 2010

Paper Industry encourages use of Commission guidance to improve wood supply

Last week, European Commission’s DG AGRI, Forest Europe and UNECE-FAO (UN bodies) jointly released a very timely publication giving guidance on how to increase wood supply in Europe. CEPI, the Confederation of European Paper Industries, welcomes this publication and encourages all stakeholders in the forestry field to make good use of it.

The document entitled “Good practice guidance on the sustainable mobilisation of wood in Europe” refers to good practice examples of successful and sustainable removal of wood from Europe’s forests, to assist policy-makers and practitioners alike in taking and supporting similar measures.

The publication comes timely for three reasons:

- The target of reaching a 20% share of renewable energy of the total energy consumption can only be fulfilled with a massive additional supply of biomass, especially wood, as CEPI already warned in 2007 on the basis of the findings of a shortage of 260 million m³ of wood by McKinsey.
- The Member States of the EU are to spell out their renewable energy action plans by the end of June 2010. These plans should include provisions for biomass mobilisation.
- Wood is a crucial raw material for the European paper industry and access to it needs to remain cost effective and competitive to ensure the global competitiveness of the industry.

Teresa Presas, CEPI Managing Director: “We thank the European Commission and DG AGRI as well as UNECE-FAO and Forest Europe for having assembled these good practices and for sharing them with all stakeholders. We urge the Member States of the EU to make good use of these practices when elaborating on their national renewable energy action plans.”

The guidance helps decision-makers from administrations and industry, as well as forestry practitioners, make sound choices and implement appropriate actions with respect to all aspects of sustainable wood supply, whilst ensuring sustainable forest management (SFM).

For more information, please contact Daniela Haiduc at d.haiduc@cepi.org

##
Note to the Editor

Link to the joint publication: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/fore/publi/forest_brochure_en.pdf

Link to the summary of the McKinsey study: http://www.cepi.org/content/default.asp?PageID=558&DocID=13252

CEPI aisbl - The Confederation of European Paper Industries.

The Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI) is a Brussels-based non-profit making organisation regrouping the European pulp and paper industry and championing this industry’s achievements and the benefits of its products. Its mission is to promote the member’s business sector by taking specific actions notably, by monitoring and analysing activities and initiatives in the areas of industry, environment, energy, forestry, recycling, fiscal policies and competitiveness in general. Through CEPI, the paper industry increases its visibility and acts on emerging issues, making expert and constructive contributions on behalf of the industry.

Its collective expertise provides a unique source of information both for and on the industry; coordinating essential exchanges of experience and knowledge among its members, the ability to provide technical assistance to legislators and to identify independent experts on specific issues. Through its 19 member countries (17 European Union members plus Norway and Switzerland) CEPI represents some 760 pulp, paper and board producing companies across Europe, ranging from small and medium sized companies to multi-nationals, and 1080 paper mills. Together they represent 26% of world production.

Website: www.cepi.org