The European Paper Industry supports the Italian Waste Shipment Law

“The Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI) supports global trade and a free market, but a pre-condition to this is a level playing field. This is why we support requiring broadly equal environmental standards from our competitors in Asia,” said Jori Ringman-Beck, CEPI Director for Recycling, Products and Environment, at bvse (Bundesverband Sekundaerohstoffe und Entsorgung e.V.) International Recovered Paper Conference in Dusseldorf, Germany, on Thursday 19 April.

"This is also the reason why CEPI supports the recent Italian waste law amendment enforcing good global environmental standards in recycling,” said Mr. Ringman-Beck. According to the decree dated 4 April 2012, each international waste shipment must now be accompanied by a certificate issued by the authorities in the destination country confirming that the environmental standards applicable in that country are comparable to those prescribed in the EU. Recently, the Internal Committee of the Italian Parliament advised the Parliament to repeal the amendment.

CEPI reminds that the principle of requiring comparable environmental standards is already included in the European Waste Directive and the Waste Shipment Regulation, and is also recognised in the international Basel Convention on waste transports. “As such the Italian decree does not seem to be conflicting with either EU law or international law” says Mr. Ringman-Beck. “It is also giving strong support to the European green growth, resource efficiency and recycling society,” complements CEPI Director General, Teresa Presas.

“The rationale and justification of the Italian amendment is very valid and is a valuable attempt to implement the requirement of ‘broadly equivalent standards’ which has existed in EU waste legislation for years but has rarely been enforced. Not enforcing it erodes both the environmental and the economic foundations of sustainability,” says Ms. Presas.

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Note to the Editor

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 members’ business sector by taking specific actions, notably by monitoring and analysing activities and initiatives in the areas of industry, environment, energy, forestry, recycling 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 550 pulp, paper and board producing companies across Europe, ranging from small and medium sized companies to multi-nationals, and 1000 paper mills. Together they represent 25% of world production.

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