



December 2017

European Tissue Symposium

Position on Sustainable Forestry and Forest Certification

Introduction

ETS is the European Tissue Paper Industry Association. Its members represent the majority of tissue paper producers throughout Europe and around 90% of the total European tissue production.

ETS was founded in 1971 and is based in Brussels.

Summary

The European Tissue Paper Industry Association is committed to use cellulose wood pulps which are derived from sustainably and legally managed forests.

In particular ETS encourages the use of third party certification as one of the best ways to ensure that suppliers meet these requirements.

Context

ETS member companies are committed to supporting the sustainable management of forests² based on responsible forest management, social responsibility and economic viability. We fully endorse the work of the EU and other organizations in ensuring that only products from legally sourced wood are sold in the European market, regardless of where it was sourced. In particular ETS welcomes the passing into law of the EU Timber regulations as member companies have long been advocating that only legal sourced timber should be available in the European Market.

ETS closely follows the development of different Forest Certification Schemes, both on an international and national level.

We encourage third party verification or certification of compliance with sustainable forestry practices but do not require nor support the requirement of certification by any single organization.

1 In this context fibres refers to wood based fibres sourced from for example wood pulp, logs and sawmill residues

2 An example of definition of Sustainable Forest Management is "*The stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way and at a rate that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions at local, national and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other eco-systems*".

This definition comes from the *Second Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, held in Helsinki in 1993*.

We also encourage the development of standards, performance measures, and continual improvement in best practices for forest ecosystems.

The Tissue industry applauds the two leading forestry certification systems; PEFC³ and FSC and believes that they have contributed much to the improvement of forests around the globe. Both are reliable methods of ensuring that fibres used in tissue production come from sustainable forests.

The members of ETS share and support the view of the European Parliament which stated in a resolution on implementing EU Forest Policy that it:

"welcomes the efforts of European forestry undertakings to give consumers assurances concerning sustainable forest management which takes account of the multifunctional role of forests, notably by means of certified wood products;" "considers the FSC and PEFC certification systems to be equally suitable for this purpose;" "calls for mutual recognition of the two certification initiatives to be promoted".

The Future

ETS' member companies will continue to work with both systems to further expand their development and continually improve their processes.

They are convinced that utilization of certification systems is one of the best ways to ensure the continuous development of one of the main raw material sources: sustainable managed forests.

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³ PEFC is in fact an endorsement scheme for a number of national forestry certification schemes.