

# EUROPEAN TISSUE SYMPOSIUM



December 2009

## **European Tissue Symposium** **Position on Sustainable Forestry and Forest Certification**

### **Introduction**

ETS is the European Tissue Paper Industry Association. The members of ETS 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**

This document outlines the position of ETS supporting the use of fibres from sustainable 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**

The member companies of ETS are committed to supporting sustainable management of forests<sup>1</sup> based on sound ecological science, social responsibility and economic viability. ETS and its members fully endorse the work of the EU and other organizations to ensure that only products from legally sourced wood are sold into the European market.

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

ETS encourages third party verification or certification of compliance with sustainable forestry practices but does not require nor support requirement of certification by any single organization.

ETS encourages development of standards, performance measures, and continual improvement in best practices for forest ecosystems.

The Tissue industry applauds the two leading forestry certification systems; PEFC and FSC. ETS believes that these two systems have contributed much to the improvement of forests around the globe.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 ecosystems" .

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

PEFC and FSC are both 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. In a resolution on implementing EU Forest Policy the European parliament stated 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, as they are convinced that utilization of certification system is one of the best ways to **ensure the continuous development of one of the main raw material sources: sustainable managed commercial forests.**

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