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## ACE WELCOMES COMMISSION COMMUNICATION ON BIODIVERSITY, HIGHLIGHTS ROLE OF RESPONSIBLE FORESTRY

“The European Commission’s renewed commitment<sup>1</sup> to halting biodiversity loss by 2010 provides an important platform for practical and coherent action to protect forest habitat species and livelihoods” says Dr. Kevin Bradley, Director-General of the Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment (ACE).

Commenting ahead of the Commission annual Green Week whose theme is Biodiversity, Dr. Bradley says: “ACE supports in particular the Communication’s clarity on the actions to be taken and the objectives set for forest resources”.

ACE shares the Commission’s view that the proposed EU Sustainable Forest Management Action Plan is an important step in underpinning biodiversity values within forest management. Particularly worthy of note is the Communication’s mention of the need for appropriate biodiversity impact assessments to be undertaken to ensure the sustainability of biomass energy production. “ 70% of the energy used in mills producing paperboard for the beverage carton come from bio-energy, and we are seeking to build on this”, says Dr. Bradley.

Dr. Bradley also welcomes the objectives in the Communication for reducing human impacts, including trade, on global biodiversity. “ACE fully supports the Commission’s aim of maximizing the proportion of EU consumption of wood products derived from sustainable sources” he comments. “The consumption of wood and wood-based products from responsibly managed forests is a significant contribution to renewable practices both at the EU and global levels”, he says.

Finally, with respect to concerted action on biodiversity between business and industry, ACE and its member companies are already engaged in numerous partnerships and bilateral projects to encourage biodiversity as part of sustainable forest management. “In particular” says Dr. Bradley, “site-adapted forestry – which involves mapping sensitive biotopes and requires plans for habitat regeneration – is a key element of sustainable practices in the forests supplying board for the beverage carton in the EU”.

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<sup>1</sup> Communication from the Commission (COM (2006) 216 final. Halting the Loss of Biodiversity by 2010 – and beyond: sustaining ecosystem services for human well-being.



Note to editors: The Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment (ACE) is pleased to announce its participation in this year's European Commission Green Week – *Biodiversity is Life*.

Join us at the Charlemagne Building (Rue de la Loi, 170) from 30 May to 2 June for Green Week 2006 and visit us at Stand 5 on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the conference exhibit for more details on how ACE contributes to biodiversity in Europe and the world.

*ACE represents leading beverage carton packaging producers and their main European paperboard suppliers in EU environmental policy developments.*

For more information about ACE, our members and our initiatives please visit our website at [www.ace.be](http://www.ace.be).