THE ALLIANCE FOR BEVERAGE CARTONS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Working with Nature

PRESS RELEASE

ACE welcomes today's UN celebrations to mark the International Day on Biodiversity and Climate Change

ACE, the Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment, welcomes today the celebration of the UN International Day on Biodiversity and Climate Change.

This world-wide occasion is an opportunity for stakeholders involved to reaffirm their share in global responsibility in these areas. "Industry has its share of responsibility", says Marie Törnell, ACE Director-General, "and indeed ACE Member Companies have a significant contribution to make to ensure sustainable development".

Highlighting ACE initiatives supporting these global aims, Törnell comments: "ACE and its member companies are engaged in numerous partnerships and projects aimed at encouraging biodiversity as part of our commitment to sustainable forest management and the fight against climate change".

ACE Member Companies are insisting on 'site-adapted forestry' techniques in the woods from which they source their paperboard, requiring mapping of sensitive biotopes and plans for habitat regeneration. This enables an integrated and holistic approach to sustainable forest management.

Measures such as these represent additional costs lowering production potential by up to 10%. However, Törnell points out, "in the longer term the investment is paid back by the renewal and stewardship of resources which contribute to making our future sustainable".

The forest management principles are based on local forest management experience, legal requirements and standards set by forest certification schemes. They also respond to the specific habitat and species protection requirements laid down in EU and national legislation.

"Forests are also a key ecosystem in counteracting climate change", she says. '"In addition, 70% of the energy used in ACE companies' paper mills comes from bio-energy, and we make power available from this source to local communities". These paper mills are counteracting the greenhouse effect by progressively replacing fossil fuels with bio-energy, thus reducing their net emissions of CO_2.

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