



PRESS RELEASE

**Progress in global wood traceability commitment
“significant” -
Latest report published by independent verifier**

Brussels, November 17, 2009

Significant progress has been made by ACE beverage carton companies towards achieving full traceability certification of wood used in cartons and of the factories that produce them worldwide. Certified or controlled fibres purchased by Tetra Pak, Elopak and SIG Combibloc, which together make up four-fifths of the global drinks carton market, rose from 47% in 2007 to 77% in 2008, according to the report.

This is the conclusion of ProForest, an independent verifier of natural resource management, in its second annual report on the chain of custody commitment made by the 3 companies in 2007ⁱ.

“The advances identified by the verifier are very good news”, comments Christian Verschueren, Director-General of ACE, which coordinates the commitment. “Tracing back wood fibres to their source is a key tool in responsible forestry practices. Our industry has managed to increase purchases of FSC certified and FSC controlled wood fibre in a single year by more than 700,000 tons (+60%)ⁱⁱ”, he points out.

The commitment is two-fold and global. First, the companies undertake by 2015 to reach 100% chain of custody certification of all wood fibres used in mills producing paperboard for the three beverage carton manufacturers. Second they commit to secure by 2018 chain of custody certification for all their carton manufacturing plantsⁱⁱⁱ.

Mario Abreu, Director, Forestry and Supply Chain, at Tetra Pak, and a member of the ACE Board of Directors, highlights the efforts still needed in the years ahead. “We have no grounds for complacency. While we have doubled the number of manufacturing plants certified, this accounts for only

ⁱ <http://www.ace.be/NeoDownload?docId=233893>

ⁱⁱ Total ACE company (beverage carton manufacturers) purchases of wood fibres in 2008 was just under 2.5 million tons. 75% of each carton is on average made from wood fibres, a renewable resource.

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.beveragecarton.eu/NeoDownload?docId=105143>



a little over 10% of the total. There is still a tough challenge ahead, but we are confident of meeting it", he concludes.

The ProForest report comes as the EU Council of Ministers prepares to finalize its first reading on the proposal for a Regulation on due diligence intended to combat illegal logging. This measure is part of the EU FLEGT's action plan which, as well as policy action, calls for private sector initiatives and voluntary commitments to support responsible forestry^{IV}.

"On the eve of the COP-15 UN climate talks in Copenhagen", adds Verschueren, "it is worth emphasizing the role that the responsible management of forests can play in enhancing their potential to absorb CO₂ and thus counter climate change."

Notes for editors

About ACE (www.beveragecarton.eu)

ACE – the Alliance for beverage Cartons and the Environment - is the European ambassador and knowledge hub for beverage carton manufacturers and their EU paperboard suppliers, studying and communicating the environmental value of cartons as a renewable, recyclable and low carbon packaging solution. ACE members include beverage carton producers Tetra Pak, SIG Combibloc and Elopak; they develop, manufacture and market systems for the processing, packaging and distribution of food, and produce packaging material at 23 plants in Europe. About 98% of the paperboard used by ACE members in beverage cartons in Europe is produced by Stora Enso in Skoghall (Sweden) and Imatra (Finland), and Korsnäs in Gävle and Frövi (Sweden), who are also members of ACE. These paper mills and the beverage carton manufacturers in ACE together employ close to 30,000 people worldwide.

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^{IV} <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/flegt.htm>