

REPLY TO THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE 2030 EU BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

ACE supports an ambitious Biodiversity Strategy 2030 to halt global biodiversity loss.

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) report launched in summer 2019 clearly states the importance to give biodiversity high focus. The report identifies the five most important factors behind the negative trend: climate change, changes in land and water use management, exploitation of organisms, pollution and invasive species. It highlights the importance to combat climate change to avoid detrimental impacts to ecosystems, including the loss of biodiversity (see IPBES report). High wood production in combination with high ambitions regarding nature conservation produce sustainable forest-based materials that have a positive effect on both climate change and biodiversity.

In view of the Biodiversity Strategy 2030, ACE supports measures that promote the sustainable use of forest, agriculture, marine, freshwater and urban ecosystems, and to integrate biodiversity considerations, such as sustainable sourcing and supply chain requirements into all Circular Economy policies. Forest based products are renewable and climate-positive when the raw material origins come from growing, well managed forests. We encourage all value-chains to take actions to ensure **sustainable sourcing of all raw materials** – both renewables and non-renewables to recognized sustainable forest management standards, like the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), or the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

The beverage carton industry has long been at the forefront of promoting sustainable sourcing of its raw materials: in 2016 ACE Members achieved their **voluntary commitment** to only use wood fibres from legal and acceptable sources which are covered by certified traceability systems. The companies also voluntarily committed to secure 100% Chain of Custody certification for all their production sites.

Europe already demonstrates its leadership with regards to sustainable sourcing of forestry-based resources. This is a competitive advantage to further build on. Good experiences from forestry practices on national level in Europe should be utilized and acknowledged as an important element in EUs biodiversity strategy.

Building on existing and credible certification systems, like FSC or PEFC, is a key to success for a positive biodiversity development. The broad stakeholder engagement in credible certification systems guarantees inclusion of stakeholder views in the decisions on forest management. The



beverage carton industry is committed to work actively with its stakeholders to promote sustainable forest management and the wider use of certification systems.

Furthermore, these systems contribute to clarity in the marketplace. It is important to create good conditions for consumers to make the best possible choices, and in this way support a positive biodiversity development.

We see a need to further increase the knowledge base on the state of biodiversity and how it develops over time in Europe. A more solid knowledge base could also make a positive contribution to the general debate on how the bio economy should best develop. We therefore support efforts to produce solid data in this field is included as an element in EUs biodiversity strategy – to realize this competence in ecology and information technology need to cooperate.

Forest based products are renewable and climate-positive when the raw material comes from growing, well managed forest. The EU - Biodiversity Strategy 2030 must consider all aspects and take all the influencing factors into concern to halt global loss of biodiversity.