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2015

EU

The background of the entire page is an aerial photograph of a dense, lush green forest. The trees are packed closely together, creating a vibrant, textured canopy of various shades of green.

# INDUSTRY STATEMENT

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## FOR THE REVIEW OF THE EU TIMBER REGULATION

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## **We support an EU Timber Regulation which is more effective at stopping illegal timber from being traded on the European market.**

We, the undersigned organisations, are producers, purchasers or retailers of timber and timber products.

We welcomed and supported the introduction of the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR). It provided important progress towards stopping the trade in illegal timber in the EU and an opportunity to create a level playing field for businesses that source timber responsibly.

But the current legislation does not entirely fill its stated purpose, so there is an urgent need for further measures to make it fully effective.

Illegal logging poses a significant threat to global forest resources. It contributes to deforestation, causes loss of biodiversity and erodes the rule of law. It undermines responsible forest management, encourages corruption and tax evasion, and reduces the income of producer countries. Cheap imports of illegal products also distort market pricing and investment prospects. And they have social implications, threatening the jobs and livelihoods of people who depend on forests for their survival. Many companies supported the original call for EU legislation to tackle these problems. This led to the EUTR.

In its review in 2015, the EUTR needs to be strengthened so it will be implemented and enforced effectively in all EU member states. At present, competent authorities often lack resources, training and coordination at EU level to ensure a coherent approach to the way the EUTR is implemented. And it remains unclear how many operators have comprehensive due diligence in place. It's essential that competent authorities take a coherent and firm approach towards the interpretation of the legislation, as well as applying harmonised penalties and sanctions, and ensuring there is sufficient capacity for enforcement across the EU member states.

In addition, at present the law does not apply to all timber and timber products. In fact, it covers less than 50% of the value of those products entering the EU market<sup>1</sup>. We believe that the regulation must be broadened so it applies to all wood products that could contain illegally-sourced timber.

Unfair competition, caused by widely varying enforcement practices among EU member states and the lack of coverage of a number of timber products in the EUTR, harms European companies that behave responsibly and attempt to play by the rules. Concerted political action is needed to address these conditions in the review of the EUTR and subsequent proposals made for improvement by the European Commission.

We urge the European Commission to seize the opportunity of upcoming review to

deliver a strong EUTR that can halt the trade in illegal timber. Our dependencies on global forest resources are at risk if the European market does not support a vision for comprehensively legal, responsible forest trade.

<sup>1</sup> Newleaf, 2014. 'In or out? Can the European Union's Timber Regulation keep out illegal timber?' WWF-UK, Woking, UK. Available to download from [www.wwf.org.uk/eutrscope](http://www.wwf.org.uk/eutrscope)

# LIST OF SIGNATORIES\*

## COMPANIES

AB Fortum Värme samägt med Stockholm stad  
Accsys  
Andrighetti Legnami Spa  
B&Q plc  
BAM Construct UK Ltd.  
BAM Nuttall Ltd.  
Bellotti Spa  
Boots  
Canal & River Trust  
Carillion  
Carrefour  
Castorama  
Corà Domenico & Figli Spa  
Crest Nicholson PLC  
CrowdsKnow  
Danzer UK Limited  
Delhaize Group SA/NV  
Edeka AG & Co. KG  
Empatika  
Exott  
Ferrovial  
Forestry Commission England  
G. Luvisoni & Co SRL  
Home Retail Group  
Hornbach Baumarkt AG  
IKEA  
Immediate Media Co.  
John Lewis Partnership  
Kährs Group  
Kingfisher plc  
Kinnarps Group  
James Latham PLC  
Legnonord Spa  
Marks & Spencer  
Martens hout NV  
Morgan Timber  
Munksjö AB  
Otto Group GmbH & Co. KG  
Pearson  
Pureprint Group  
Quintelier NV  
Redrow Homes Ltd  
Rougier Sylvaco Panneaux  
Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd  
SC Abate Panel SRL  
SC Arabesque SRL  
SC Carpat Sticks SRL  
SC Inform Lykos SA  
SC Losan Romania SRL  
SCA  
Sequana  
Servaege NV  
Saint Gobain Building and Distribution UK & Ireland  
SIG International Services GmbH  
Silva Timber  
Somex Cras Groep  
Stern GmbH & Co. KG  
Tesco Stores Ltd  
The Solid Wood Flooring Company  
Travis Perkins  
van Hoorebeke Timber NV/SA  
Vandecasteele Houtimport  
Vasto Legno Spa  
Vogel Import Export NV

## FEDERATIONS/ASSOCIATIONS

Assocofani

Asociația Producătorilor de Mobilă din România

European Timber Trade Federation and its members:

- Asociación Española de Comercio e Industria de la Madera
- Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux
- Belgische federatie van Hout Invoerhandel / Fédération Belge du Commerce d'Importation de Bois
- Dansk Traeforening
- European Federation of Parquet Importers
- Fedecomlegno
- GD Holz
- Koninklijke Vereniging Van Nederlandse Houtondernemingen
- Le Commerce du Bois
- UK Timber Trade Federation

FederlegnoArredo

Fedustria Federatie voor de Belgische textiel-, hout- en meubelindustrie/ Fédération belge de l'industrie textile, du bois et de l'ameublement

Intergraf – European Federation for Print and Digital Communication

Koninklijke CBM, Branchevereniging voor interieurbouw en meubelindustrie

\* List of signatories as of 22.09.15

## For further information:

### **Anke Schulmeister**

Senior Forest Policy Officer  
WWF European Policy Office  
168 Avenue de Tervurenlaan Box 20  
1150 Brussels  
Belgium

Tel: +32 2 740 09 22  
Email: [aschulmeister@wwf.eu](mailto:aschulmeister@wwf.eu)

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#### **Why we are here**

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.