



Joint¹ Workshop, Brussels, 13th April 2011

“Does banning illegal logging rule out wood?”

Implications of recent trade legislation within the UNECE region for the forest-based sector



European Economic and Social Committee, Rue Belliard, 99, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium

¹ Hosted by The European Economic and Social Committee; also under the patronage of and/or co-sponsored by: American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC), Canada Wood, CEI-Bois, UNECE Team of Specialists on Forest Products Marketing.

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“Joint Policy Workshop: “Does banning illegal logging rule out wood?”

- Implications of recent trade legislation within the UNECE region for the global forest-based sector.

Background:

“Regulations affecting the trade of timber products are evolving quickly, and this evolution should be closely monitored because of the impacts on the entire forest sector.” So concluded the UNECE-WTO² workshop on “*Emerging Trade Measures in Timber Markets*” in March 2010.

At the Market Discussions of the UNECE³ Timber Committee Meeting, held in Geneva in October 2010, there was further strong interest expressed in the development of the EU’s then Due Diligence Regulation (DDR) – now “Timber Regulation” - and in the Lacey Act Amendment (2008), both aimed at removing illegal wood and wood-based products from the marketplace.

The above conclusion has been borne out. In October 2010, the EU adopted its “Timber Regulation”⁴, the USA’s Lacey Act Amendment (2008)⁵ has become more fully operational and, globally, other countries are developing similar legislation.

In this context, the Timber Committee requested its UNECE-FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products Marketing: “to consider the legality and competitiveness of forest products”⁶. In response, the Team has organised this one-day workshop on the implications of such emerging trade legislation within the UNECE region for the global forest-based sector. This workshop covers in particular but not necessarily exclusively, the EU legislation⁷ and the US Lacey Act Amendment (2008). Seizing upon the relative newness of this legislation, this workshop’s timeliness will enable its outcomes to be available to the further development and implementation of legislation, such as preparatory work on the EU TR which is currently being undertaken.

Objectives:

- i) to better understand recent trade legislation in the UNECE region, in particular the Lacey Act Amendment (2008) and the EU’s “Timber Regulation”, their implications for and likely impacts on the global forest-based sector;
- ii) to stimulate focused stakeholder discussion as a basis for drawing workshop conclusions and possible recommendations which will be publicly available.

² <http://www.wto.org/> http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/reser_e/wkshop_mar10_e/wkshop_mar10_e.htm

³ United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

⁴ Regulation EU 995/2010, Reference: EU Official Journal L295 of 12/11/2010.

⁵ *Federal Register* / Vol. 73, No. 196 / Wednesday, October 8, 2008. Also: www.eia-global.org/lacey/P6.EIA.LaceyReport.pdf

⁶ Report of the Timber Committee 2010, paragraph 25.

http://timber.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/meetings/20101011/ECE_TIM_2010_7_report.pdf

⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/development/icenter/repository/flegt_timber_proposal_oct08.pdf



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Expected outputs:

- i) broadened awareness of the legislation, its implications and impacts amongst sectoral stakeholders as well as other interested parties;
- ii) conclusions and recommendations to be available to policy-makers and others, including for consideration during the future development and implementation of such legislation. (Preliminary (Chairmen's) conclusions and recommendations will be drawn up during the workshop and presented in the closing session. Further contributions may then be received in writing from participants as inputs to a set of enhanced conclusions and recommendations which will be made publicly available, including to the relevant EU and USA authorities).

Target audience:

- wood traders (firms, federations and associations);
- wood and wood-based products' manufacturers (firms, federations and associations);
- end users of wood and wood-based products, including architects' associations.
- government departments, especially policy-makers and implementers.
- UN and other inter-governmental bodies.
- other non-governmental agencies, including ENGOs, certification bodies, etc.

Venue:

13th April 2011 (09:00 – 18:00 hr.s) at: European Economic and Social Committee,
Rue Belliard, 99,
B-1040, Brussels

ESSC location map: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/resources/contact/map-bxl.pdf>

Format:

- one-day, stand-alone workshop, stimulated by a key-note speaker, and having four focused sessions, each with leading experts;
- the main working language is English but linguistic interpretation – Dutch English, French, German, (Swedish & Spanish can be spoken) - will facilitate involvement by an international audience;
- sponsors are acknowledged in workshop documents and web-sites.

Co-chairmen: Eoin O'Driscoll, Subgroup Leader (Responsible Trade in Forest Products); Jeremy Wall (tbc), Subgroup Leader Emerging Markets, both UNECE Team of Specialists on Forest Products Marketing.

Discussion animator: Ed Pepke, UNECE-FAO, Secretary to UNECE-FAO ToS

Workshop details and the registration form are posted on the UNECE-FAO Timber Committee homepage (www.unece.org/timber) and other relevant sectoral web-sites.



Workshop programme:

- 08:00 – 09:00 Registration
- 09:00 – 09:15 Welcome addresses, led by
Staffan Nilsson, President of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- Housekeeping notices
- 09:15 – 09:35 Keynote address: **“Why rule out illegal wood?”**
Why & how has legislation developed in Europe and the USA?
- Rupert Oliver**, independent forest-based sector consultant;
Forest Industries Intelligence, Ltd.

SESSION I – “Putting legality into law”:

What is the EU’s Regulation against illegal logging?

- 09:35 – 09:55 **Svetla Atanasova**, DG Environment, European Commission;
“How the EU legislation is foreseen to work”
- 09:55 – 10:15 **Eudeline Pekam**, Ministry of Agriculture, France;
“How Member States will enact the EU Regulation”

What is the Lacey Act Amendment (2008)?

- 10:15 – 10:35 **Gary Lougee** (tbc), US Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS);
“What the Lacey Act Amendment means in practice”
- 10:35 – 10:55 **Andrea Johnson/Adam Grant** (tbc), Environmental Intelligence Agency (EIA).
“The Lacey Act Amendment viewed by civil society”
- 10:55 – 11:15 **COFFEE BREAK**
- 11:15 – 11:35 Session discussion



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SESSION II – “Will business fly or fold?”

How do the EU TR and the Lacey Act Amendment affect the forest-based sector?

- 11:35 – 11:55 **Denis Sokolov**, Forestry Advisor to Russian Ministry of Natural Resources & Ecology, former Head of the Federation of North-West Russian Forest Industries (tbc):
“Legislative impacts on business in Russia”;
- 11:55 – 12:15 **Brendan Burns**, EESC Member, Director and owner of Burns, Burns & Burns and Burns-Scotland:
“How the EU TR may affect EU SMEs”
- 12:15 – 12:35 **Hervé Bourguignon**, Inter-African Forest Industries Association (IFIA): “Changing market requirements in Europe - how African timber exporters are responding”.
- 12:35 – 13:00 Session discussion
- 13:00 – 14:30 **LUNCH**
Buffet in the atrium, European Economic and Social Committee.
(NB possibility of roll-up banner exhibition, document displays).

SESSION III – “How to stay legal?”

How can the criteria of the EU TR and the Lacey Act Amendment be met?

- 14:30 – 14:50 **Anke Schulmeister**, WWF, Brussels:
“A civil society view of how to meet legality criteria”
- 14:50 – 15:10 **Alistair Herd**, The Forest Trust & Tropical Timber Action Plan:
“Views from existing and potential TTAP partners”;
- 15:10 – 15:30 **Rachel Bulter**, TTF UK for European Timber Trade Federation:
“How European wood businesses are coping with legislation”.
- 15:30 – 15:50 **David Venables**, European Director, American Hardwoods Export Council (AHEC)
“Risk analysis as a tool for legality - lessons from N. America”
- 15:50 – 16:00 **COFFEE BREAK**
- 16:00 – 16:15 Session discussion



SESSION IV – “Making legality understood”

Promoting the concept of legal wood to a non-wood audience

16:15 – 16:35	Katarina Maaskant , European Affairs Advisor, IKEA “A large retailer’s view of promoting legal wood”
16:35 – 16:55	Sylvain Labbé , Director, Canada Wood “Legislative impacts on Canadian exports to the USA and Europe”
16:55 – 17:15	Sheam Sutkuru-Granzella , Director, Malaysian Timber Council, Europe (tbc): “A tropical wood producer’s dilemma”.
17:15 – 17:35	Sofie Tind Nielsen , Central Point of Expertise on Timber Procurement (CPET), UK (tbc); “How EU Member State authorities could deal with legality”
17:35 – 17:45	Session discussion
17:45 – 17:55	Chairmen’s preliminary conclusions and recommendations (Discussion Animator and Co-chairmen)
17:55 – 18:00	Closing remarks

Discussion: in each session, the Discussion Animator, will table a number of key questions, some of which will have been circulated before the meeting, so to help inspire and structure but by no means limit discussions. He will then feed the synthesised results of each discussion into the overall workshop conclusions and recommendations.

Contact details:

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Other information:

EESC: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.contact-info>

AHEC: <http://www.ahec.org/>

Canada Wood: <http://www.canadawood.org/>

CEI-Bois: <http://www.cei-bois.org/>

UNECE-FAO: <http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=2>

Legal notice: participation at the workshop is on one’s own responsibility. The workshop organisers (UNECE-FAO), hosts (EESC) and co-sponsors decline any responsibility or liability arising for any accidents, injuries or damage which may occur at the workshop, or other claims, which are beyond their control. Acceptance of this condition is implicit in applying to register for the workshop.