

Forest certification- standardizers and regulators perspective

*(presentation from
UNECE Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and
Standardization Policies -WP.6)*

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United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

UNECE Working Party 6 mandate: to eliminate TBTs and facilitate trade and market access through:

- regulatory convergence
- good regulatory and CA practices
- promotion/use of standards
- market surveillance/consumer protection
- recommendations to Governments
- (“International Model”)

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Standardization and Regulatory Framework

- standards (technical performance; industry);
- technical regulations (safety, ecology, etc; governments);
- conformity assessment (testing; certification: mandatory and voluntary; SDoC)



Standards, Regulatory and CA principles (WTO/TBT)

- non discriminatory;
- transparent;
- based on international standards, guides, etc;
- openness , impartiality ;
- effectiveness and reliability;
- coherence/ economic dimension;
- acceptance of equivalence



Forest certification (various schemes)

Pros	Cons
market driven/voluntary	non-compatible
known by industry/ industry users	confusion among consumers
non-discriminatory	confusion among users (small forest owners)
added value (for whom?)	



Role for Industry

- make dialogue not war
- clear message on schemes (agree on needs and criteria)
- niche for each scheme?
- control ? (misleading labelling, etc.)



Role for Governments

- not intervene in schemes
- promotion of sustainable forestry principles (in public procurement)
- non discrimination of schemes
- control ?



Possible issues for further discussion

- Is there a need for a code of conduct for forest certification ?
- Possible elements for such code (see WTO principles)
- Role for UNECE



For more information contact

Mr. Serguei Kouzmine

**Secretary to UNECE Working Party on Regulatory
Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP6)**

Tel. (41 22) 917 27 71

Fax (41 22) 917 0479/9170037

e-mail : Serguei.kouzmine@unece.org



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