

# **Joint workshop on illegal logging, Brussels, April 13<sup>th</sup> 2011**

## Co-chairmen's preliminary conclusions and recommendations

### **Conclusions by session:**

#### **1. 'Putting legality into law'**

- It is worthwhile having legislation such as the LAA and the EU TR but big gaps are left in the international market which allow the circumvention of trade through and to less discerning markets.
- A multi-lateral framework could be helpful to fill these gaps.
- A common reporting framework would assist the adoption of legality legislation.

#### **2. 'Will business fly or fold?'**

- In any case, wood trading companies will need to introduce or enhance their business systems to accommodate the legislation against illegal logging and its trade.
- As more countries develop such legislation, internationally active companies need to meet multiple requirements. This increases business complexity and costs particularly in relation to competing materials.

#### **3. 'How to stay legal'**

- Wood producers, processors and traders, particularly in exporting countries are not yet sufficiently aware and equipped to meet legality requirements.
- Existing certification systems (for sustainable forest management) need to be adapted or linked to other business practices (e.g. legality documentation; chain of custody) in order to provide proof of legality and hence provide assurance to authorities, stakeholders and others.

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### **4. 'Making legality understood'**

- There is a general lack of public consciousness of illegal logging and its related trade and how to tackle it through appropriate legislation.
- Similarly, professional end users including architects, specifiers, planners and others are missing relevant technical and legal information to enhance their awareness and knowledge and hence their confidence to use wood vis-à-vis other materials which may have bigger environmental and social impacts.

### **Recommendations:**

1. That these conclusions be made publicly available and presented to the UNECE-FAO Team of Specialists, its parent bodies and to relevant EU and USA authorities.
2. More key wood-trading countries need to be involved both in providing and meeting legality requirements for trading wood in order to reduce and hopefully eliminate illegal logging.
3. That further development of such legislation in other countries preferably take into account what has been set up already and consider working towards compatible systems, if not a common framework.
4. General outreach to retailers, architects, specifiers and consumers is required to reinforce the benefits of buying and using sustainably produced and legal wood and paper products.
5. Sectoral trade associations can help their members by providing specific technical and legal advice to meeting legislative requirements. Likewise governments can/should inform all forest-based sector stakeholders about their obligations.