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VERIFIED TRACEABILITY OF BEVERAGE CARTON INDUSTRY'S GLOBALLY SOURCED WOOD FIBRE REACHES 98%

Responsible sourcing of raw materials provides the ground for EU's circular economy policy

Significant progress has been made by ACE beverage carton manufacturers towards achieving full certification of the wood fibre used in cartons demonstrating legality and traceability, and of the factories that produce them worldwide.

The ACE industry commitment aims to put in place, globally, 100% chain-of-custody certification coverage by 2015 for all paperboard purchased, and by 2018 for all converting plants. Moving towards this goal, in 2014, 98% of the fibers purchased worldwide were proven to be FSC®certified or FSC controlled wood compared to 93% in 2013. In addition, 96% of the converting plants owned by Tetra Pak, Elopak and SIG Combibloc are now FSC Chain-of-Custody (CoC) certified.

This is the conclusion of ProForest, an independent verifier of natural resource management, in its eighth annual report on the chain of custody commitment made globally by the three companies in 2007.

"On the whole we are very pleased with our progress towards meeting our commitments" said Bertil Heerink, Director-general of ACE. "With our global commitment, ACE beverage carton producers are putting principles of circular economy into practice. We believe that responsible sourcing of primary raw materials is critical for sustainable economic growths and safeguarding competitiveness of European producers."

"We welcome the recognition of sustainable sourcing and the contribution of bio-based materials in the European Commission circular economy package, which helps strengthening our commitment to responsibly sourced renewable materials and should be extended to the legislative proposals. The use of bio-based materials should be promoted, particularly in sectors such as packaging where solutions are already available. Circular Economy framework should aim to maintain Europe's economic competitiveness by ensuring access to primary resources and materials, creating the conditions for all primary materials to be responsibly sourced and driving initiatives that will increase the use of renewable materials. We are looking forward to a constructive dialogue with the EU institutions on the future developments of EU resource policies towards 2020," adds Heerink.

Note to Editors

About the commitment

The ACE beverage carton manufacturers' commitment is two-fold and global. First, the three beverage carton manufacturers undertake by 2015 to reach 100% wood fibre that is traceable to legal and acceptable sources, using processes that have been independently verified. The scope includes all wood fibres used in mills producing paperboard for the three companies. Within the EU, 100% of the wood used for the production of beverage cartons already comes from paper mills that have an FSC CoC certification in place. Second, ACE beverage carton manufacturers' commit to secure by 2018 chain-of-custody certification for all their carton manufacturing plants.

About ACE

ACE, the Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment, provides a European platform for beverage carton manufacturers and their paperboard suppliers to benchmark and profile cartons as renewable, recyclable and low

carbon packaging solutions. Engaging with stakeholders and partners seeking high environmental stewardship, it contributes expertise to EU policy, legislation and standard-setting.

ACE members include beverage carton producers Elopak, SIG Combibloc and Tetra Pak; they develop, manufacture and market systems for the packaging and distribution of food, and produce packaging material at 22 plants in Europe. ACE also includes Stora Enso and BillerudKorsnäs, the leading European paperboard suppliers for the beverage carton industry. Worldwide, these five companies employ approximately 30,000 people in their beverage carton businesses.

For further information please visit the ACE website www.beveragecarton.eu.

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