



PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 4 October 2010

**3rd annual report indicates “good progress” in
global wood traceability commitment**

Good progress has been made by ACE beverage carton manufacturers towards achieving full traceability certification of wood used in cartons and of the factories that produce them worldwide. Of the 52 manufacturing plants owned by Tetra Pak, Elopak and SIG Combibloc, 16 are now FSC Chain-of-Custody (CoC) certified, which is more than double compared to 2008, when 6 plants were certified. In addition, one of the companies already achieved CoC certification for all its converting plants at the end of 2009.

This is the conclusion of ProForest, an independent verifier of natural resource management, in its third annual report on the chain of custody commitment made by the 3 companies in 2007¹.

“On the whole we are pleased with our progress towards meeting our commitments” comments Christian Verschueren, Director-general of ACE. “The significant increase in certifications of our converting plants, as well as the prospects for a greater increase in the purchase of certified or controlled fibres for next year, give us confidence that can meet the challenges ahead and achieve our goals.”

The report also shows that FSC certified or controlled fibres account for 52% of the purchases during 2009. While this represents 1.27 million tonnes of certified wood, this volume is lower than the 77% figure of the previous year. This is due to the fact that requirements for reporting FSC controlled wood were tightened from June 2009. Although the wood supplier concerned was in possession of a valid FSC CoC certificate, the fibres supplied could not be counted as ‘certified’ or ‘controlled’ because this was not specified in the invoices, as per the new requirements.

Mario Abreu, Director, Forestry and Supply chain, at Tetra Pak, and a member of the ACE Board of Directors, says “this year’s results on FSC fibre sourcing highlight the type of hurdles involved in the implementation of such a commitment. As this situation will not repeat itself in the future, we are confident of building on the very positive results reported by ProForest last year”.²

¹ Link to report - <http://www.ace.be/NeoDownload?docId=287831>

² Certified or controlled fibres purchased by Tetra Pak, Elopak and Combibloc rose from 47% in 2007 to 77% in 2008



Notes for editors

About the Commitment:

The ACE members' commitment is two-fold and global. First, the companies undertake by 2015 to reach 100% chain of custody certification of all wood fibres used in mills producing paperboard for the three beverage carton manufacturers. Second, they commit to secure by 2018 chain of custody certification for all their manufacturing plants.³

About ACE (www.beveragecarton.eu)

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 work together to demonstrate that beverage carton packaging is the smart green choice today and in the future.

ACE members include beverage carton producers Tetra Pak, SIG Combibloc and Elopak; they develop, manufacture and market systems for the processing, packaging and distribution of food, and produce packaging material at 20 plants in Europe. About 98% of the paperboard used by ACE members in beverage cartons in Europe is produced by Stora Enso in Skoghall (Sweden) and Imatra (Finland), and Korsnäs in Gävle and Frövi (Sweden), who are also members of ACE.

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³ Industry commitment - <http://www.beveragecarton.eu/NeoDownload?docId=105143>