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European Union

Solid Wood Products

Sustainable Forestry and the European Union

2003

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Report Highlights:

The European Commission recently published a report "Sustainable Forestry and the European Union - Initiatives of the European Commission", giving an overview of ongoing EU actions and activities related to the forest sector.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
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SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

The European Commission recently published a report "Sustainable Forestry and the European Union – Initiatives of the European Commission", giving an overview of ongoing EU actions and activities related to the forest sector.

The full 60-page report can be downloaded from the Internet at http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/publi/brochures/forestry/full_en.pdf.

The EU faces many challenges, both in the 15 member states and the acceding countries, ranging from the need to manage the role of forestry and forest-based industries within rural development measures, forest health, sustaining the competitiveness of the industries that depend on forests and forest products and combating forest fires, pollution of forests and other environmental concerns.

At the global level, the EU's priorities are the promotion of sustainable forest management as a means of reducing poverty in developing countries, increasing the use of sustainably-produced wood and other forest products, and meeting international obligations to help improve the environment and preserve biodiversity and natural resources. The EU recently proposed an Action Plan to combat illegal harvesting of wood and related trade of forest products.

In 1998, the EU adopted an EU Forestry Strategy, putting forward as its overall principles the application of sustainable forest management and the multifunctional role of forests. The strategy is based on the commitments made by the EU and the member states in international processes related to forests. Its main elements are:

- Responsibility for forest policy lies with the member states, the EU can contribute to the implementation of sustainable forest management through EU policies;
- Implementation of international commitments, principles and recommendations through national or sub-national forest programs developed by the member states;
- Integration and support of these programs developed by the member states through specific measures and EU policies such as CAP and Rural Development, Environment, Research, Energy, Internal Market, Health and Consumer Protection.

The Commission plans to present to the Council and the European Parliament, an implementation report of the EU Forestry Strategy by the end of 2003. This report will describe the activities carried out and the results achieved during the period 1999-2003.

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