

6th August 2004

Gemma Boetekees
FSC Europe Regional Office
PO BOX 239
3970 AC Driebergen
Netherlands

Dear Gemma (and Ruth),

You may (will) be aware that Woodmark conducted an FSC annual surveillance audit of Coillte Teoranta during May/June 2004 (SA-FM/COC-0706, previously SGS-FM/COC-0706). As part of this assessment Woodmark carried out extensive stakeholder consultation and made an effort to meet as many stakeholders as possible within the time available.

On 3rd June 2004 Woodmark representatives met with Ruth as the IFCI co-ordinator in Dublin in order to gain an understanding of the current status of development of the FSC forestry standard development process in Ireland.

On 5th June 2004 the Woodmark team met with local residents at Derrybrien together with a number of other stakeholders co-ordinated under the auspices of the Woodland League. This meeting included wide ranging discussion in relation to a number of issues. Among these issues was the development of the FSC forestry standard development process in Ireland.

As an FSC accredited certification body Woodmark recognises that it's role is not to become directly involved in a national standard development process, and attempted to make this clear at the Derrybrien meeting of 5th June 2004. Nevertheless, a national standard approved by FSC would be of benefit to all concerned as Woodmark continues to receive a substantial volume of stakeholder comments that relate to the process and content of FSC standard development in Ireland and the implications for Woodmark Licensees certified under it. We continue to field many queries that relate to the standard development process and this distracts our efforts to carry out an objective assessment.

As a consequence of the meeting at Derrybrien, Woodmark was presented with a number of submissions made in relation to the standard development process in Ireland and was asked to comment upon whether they had been taken fully into account. Not having been party to the process it is not possible for Woodmark to respond to this. Equally as a certification body it is not Woodmark's position to pass judgement upon whether and/or how such submissions might be taken into account. However, it may underline a need for the IFCI to demonstrate or communicate to stakeholders how such submissions have been addressed.

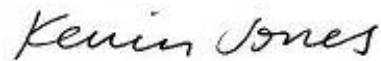
Woodmark is aware that there may at times have been difficulties in the FSC standards development process in Ireland and does not wish to comment upon or become

involved in any way with personality, organisational or political issues. However there would be a concern if good quality submissions submitted to the standard development process were not seen to have been considered and/or if the process was weakened by a lack of consensual support, as these circumstances could potentially delay the endorsement/accreditation of the national standard.

During the meeting at Derrybrien, the Woodmark team encouraged those stakeholders present to engage positively with, and assist the development of a national FSC forest management standard in Ireland in a positive way, and to feed constructive comments into the process. In return, we were requested to write to you in support of opening lines of communication in relation to the standard development process, to which we agreed, hence this letter. We hope that in doing so it may be possible to achieve a standard that has good general stakeholder support as this would allow us as a certification body to focus greater attention upon assessment of issues at site level and deal with those stakeholder concerns that relate to sites and their management, rather than issues relating to standard development process.

I hope that you find this letter useful and that in some way it may help gain support for the standard development process in Ireland.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kevin Jones
Woodmark Manager

Copies to:
Gemma Boetekees, FSC Europe.
Ruth McGrath, IFCI.
Andrew St. Ledger, Woodland League