

This Newsletter provides an update on the European paper industry's efforts to be ranked among the best performers in terms of sustainability.



Environment

Origin of Wood Project – FFIF & WWF

In 2006 WWF Russia, WWF Finland and the Finnish Forest Industries Federation (FFIF) agreed a joint statement on the legal sourcing of wood and committed themselves to participate in and support both public and private efforts to combat illegal logging and timber trade. WWF and FFIF have common views on the ultimate goal of legal and sustainable forest management, recognise illegal logging as a mutual concern world-wide and share a vision of international timber trade with wood procured from legal and sustainable sources only.

WWF acknowledges wood tracking systems as one of the most efficient tools to support the legal sourcing of wood. The Finnish forest industry is committed to contributing to further development of the existing tracing systems in local participatory processes and international dialogue. The aim is to better identify and exclude illegalities and to increase the transparency of the systems. WWF and FFIF have also



decided to establish a working group to further develop wood tracking systems. In their joint statement WWF and FFIF encourage other actors in the timber industry and in forest management to

- join the development work and share lessons learned in the use of tools that promote legal wood procurement.
- urge governments to focus on illegal logging.

Download the joint statement at http://english.forestindustries.fi/files/eu/wwf_ffif_joint_statement_eng.pdf

Wood Mobilisation From Small Woodlands – Austropapier

One of the main goals of the FHP Cooperation platform for forestry, wood and paper products in Austria is the mobilisation of sustainable wood reserves from Austrian forests.

To reach their goal they initiated the “Wood mobilisation from small woodlands” project.

The aim is an increase in the felling rate from 46% to 70% in small woodlands. This would allow for an additional 3.4 million cubic metres of sustainably managed timber.

The project comes at a time when wood is gaining increasing attention in the

framework of energy and climate change discussions as a carbon neutral energy source. This, combined with rising energy prices, is leading to an increase in wood demand. At the same time, about 54% of Austrian woodlands are small structured forest areas and an increasing number of small forest owners are “new owners”, who have no relation to forests. Since wood mobilisation in small woodlands is a complex matter several actions were identified to improve the situation:

- Increase of quality and quantity in local coaching with regards to Sustainable Forest Management
- Reaching out to new, and, up to now, inactive wood owners by new ways of communication
- Increase rate of wood mobilisation by making forest owners aware of the growth and the economic and ecologic consequences of refraining from it
- Encouraging the instalment of Geographic Information Systems and linked data systems, improving the availability of data and supply a standardised regulation
- Establishment of logistics platforms
- Improving cooperation with existing institutions and protagonists

Several pilot projects have started and a direct effect in quantity is expected by 2010. Visit www.forsthholzpapier.at for more information.

French Pulp & Paper Industry Publishes First Sustainability Report – COPACEL

For more than two years, COPACEL, the French Pulp and Paper Federation organised regular dialogues between the industry and its stakeholders on sustainable development. Fifteen NGOs took part in the discussions and their concerns were taken into account by COPACEL when they published their first Sustainability Report at the end of 2005. The report presents 14 sustainability

indicators, related to the environment (sustainable forests, recycling, energy, water effluents), social responsibility (contribution to local employment, qualifications, training, security) and economic development (value creation, profitability, investments, research and development) of the French pulp and paper industry. Each individual indicator is presented in a factual and transparent way.



The Sustainability Report was presented to all stakeholders in May 2006 and was well received. A constructive discussion took place during this meeting and proposals were made to improve the indicators, proposals that COPACEL will take into account for its next Sustainability Report.

Energy

Energy Transition for the Paper Production Chain – VNP

The Energy Transition in the Paper Production Chain programme was launched in May 2004 with the aim of halving the energy consumption of paper and board end products by 2020. An independent jury of policy makers selected the winning concepts put forward during the first phase of the programme. Based on the jury's recommendations, the paper sector then drew up a Strategic Innovation Agenda setting out the road to innovation through five programmes:

1. Energy Management 2006
2. Energy Neutral Paper
3. Supply Chain of the Future
4. Multi-purpose Bio-refinery
5. Without Water

The 'Energy Management 2006' as well as the 'Energy Neutral Paper' programmes are already underway. 'Energy Management' is to reduce the energy consumption of mills without substantial investments by 10-15% before the end of 2007. Three components will help achieve this target:

- Mindset - shifting responsibility for energy-efficiency from staff to line management
- Target setting - based on national and company benchmarks for the most relevant process-units at mill level
- Best practices - exchanging best practices in the areas of energy management, knowledge and expertise between mills

The programmes are being coordinated by the Dutch industry association Royal

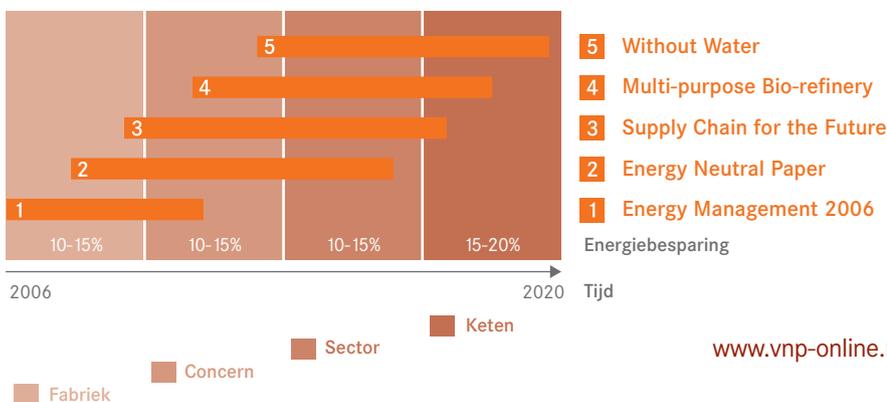
VNP and the Dutch Paper and Board Knowledge Center. First results are expected in 2007.

Committed to Energy Efficiency – Cobelpa

At the end of the 1990's, Belgium committed to very ambitious targets under the European Kyoto burden sharing. Considering the economical growth of the country, the reduction commitment of 7.5% meant Belgium would have one of the highest Green House Gas abatement costs in Europe.

In this context, the Belgian pulp and paper industry proposed voluntary agreements on energy efficiency in cooperation with authorities as a way to preserve the sustainable growth of the sector. Two types of agreement were finally concluded in 2003:

- In the Walloon region, Cobelpa - the Belgian Pulp and Paper Industry Association - on behalf of its member companies concluded a sector agreement in which the sector commits to improve its energy efficiency by 33% between 2000 and 2012. In 2005, the sector had already achieved an improvement of 20%.



www.vnp-online.nl

• In the Flemish region, pulp and paper companies committed to reach and remain amongst the world's top most energy efficient companies by 2012. In 2005, most of the companies had already achieved this position.

Through these voluntary commitments taken at sector and mill level, the Belgian pulp and paper sector has been able to preserve to a great extent its competitiveness and its potential for sustainable growth.

More information at <http://energie.wallonie.be/xml/doc-IDD-7781-.html> and www.benchmarking.be/en/home.html

Health & Safety

Prevention of Occupational Hazards in Spain – ASPAPEL

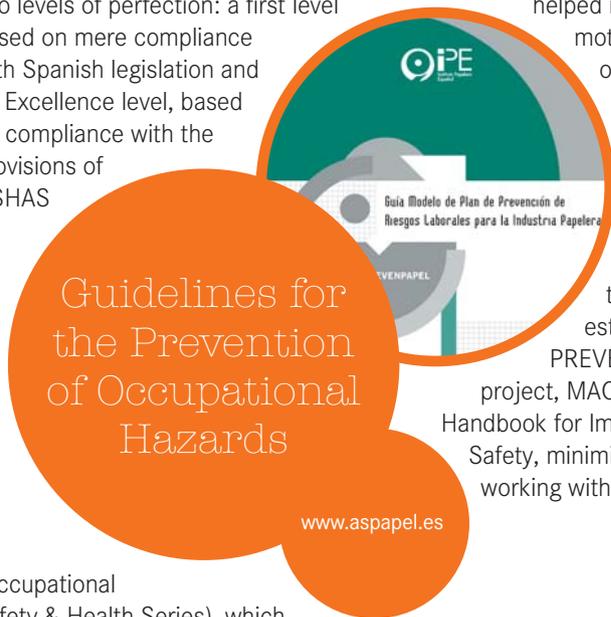
The Spanish pulp, paper and board sector has implemented several actions in the field of Occupational Hazards Prevention aimed at reducing accident rates in the sector's facilities. The PREVENPAPEL project (2005), for example, has resulted in:

- A diagnosis of the current status of occupational hazard prevention at the sector's pulp, paper and board mills; and
- The set up of guidelines for the prevention of occupational hazards throughout the paper industry.

After analysing the situation with data from the Spanish Paper Institute (IPE) and with information gathered through visits to plants, ASPAPEL drafted safety guidelines for the industry and started an implementation programme. The guidelines included a Hazard

Prevention Management System with two levels of perfection: a first level based on mere compliance with Spanish legislation and an Excellence level, based on compliance with the provisions of OSHAS

In 2006 ASISTEC-PREVENPAPEL helped increase management motivation in the field of Occupational Hazards Prevention and prepared teaching and training materials to motivate mills to adapt their Hazard Prevention Management Systems to the new guidelines established under PREVENPAPEL. The latest project, MAQPAPPEL, promotes a Handbook for Improved Paper Machine Safety, minimising the risks when working with paper machines.



(Occupational Safety & Health Series), which would lead to certification under the terms of this standard.

Transport

Paper Uses Rail in Austria – Austropapier

The total transport volume of the paper industry in Austria is 16 million tonnes per year - almost 50% of that is transported by rail. In Europe this represents one of the best results compared to a European average of 13%. A tight relationship between the wood and paper industry



and Rail cargo Austria paved the way to this success.

Fundamental improvements in wood and paper transport logistics were achieved through the introduction of a Woodliner train three years earlier.

Since then the transport volume increased by seven times. Additionally, innovative new transport systems, such as the Woodrailer or

the Woodtainer, allow for more flexibility and adaptability to the various products of the wood and paper industry and facilitate transport as well as reduce handling times.

Only speedier rail transport could now further increase the percentage of rail transport, which would only be possible together with the implementation of tighter safety measures.

Visit www.austropapier.at

Photo: P. Mader

Giga-Liner Test in Germany – VDP

To improve the performance of road logistics, the German paper industry and other sectors campaigned for the admittance of 25-meter long trucks with the potential of carrying up to 60 tonnes of cargo. The extra transport volume of 50% allows for a reduction in fuel consumption of 20% per transported tonne when compared to a normal sized truck. A first breakthrough was the

admittance of these so-called ‘Giga-liners’ in Lower Saxony and North Rhine-Westphalia. The pilot projects in those areas allow 25-meter trucks to drive on selected roads with a maximum weight of 44 tonnes. The admittance of these higher-volume transports would already mean a clear improvement in the logistics of the hygiene paper producers and the corrugated board industry.

The ‘Giga-liner’ is a combination of a semi-trailer and a tandem-trailer, together with the transporter the truck will have a total length of 25.25 instead of 18.75 meter. The allowed total weight can vary between 46 and 60 tonnes – depending on the number of axes of the trailer. The pilot projects are limited in time and full clearance for Giga-liners in Germany will depend on the decision of the German transport ministry. More information at www.vdp.de

Education & Training

Mill, Platform and Converter Open Day – Assocarta

The Mill, platform and converter open day took place on 16-18 November 2006 in Italy. The event was co-organised by Comieco (the National Consortium for the Collection and Recycling of Paper) and Assocarta (Italian Pulp and Paper Industry Association) giving citizens the

opportunity to see how paper they have collected at home is being recycled by the pulp and paper industry across Italy.

Many of Assocarta’s industry members took part in this event, which helped citizens to understand why it is important to collect used paper at home. After collection, paper is transported to

a platform for selection and then sent directly to the paper mills for recycling. The next step is paper conversion or print. Citizens could choose to visit platforms, paper mills or converters throughout the three-day event. Visit www.ricicloaperto.org for more information and photos of the event.

Research & Development

National Research Agenda for the Swedish Forest-Based Sector – SFIF

As a result of talks between the Swedish government and industry sectors, the Swedish Forest Industries Federation (SFIF) has launched a strategic national research agenda (NRA). The NRA will lead the way forward for the Swedish forest-based sector as the future lies in the development of products with a higher added value and in finding new

business opportunities based on the forest as a natural resource. The NRA provides guidance and is intended to inspire researchers to adopt new ways of thinking and working together. It aims to secure the future of Sweden’s forest-based sector and maps out and explains the research requirements in the form of 14 national focus areas as well as describing expected results.



Research can be increased by improving co-ordination, by strengthening networks and participants’ profiling. The implementation of the NRA will require numerous projects and programmes to be identified and carried out. The NRA council will supervise the implementation.

With thanks to Aspapel, Assocarta, SFIF, FFIF, VDP, VNP, Austropapier, COPACEL, COBELPA for their contributions.



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