



RESPONSIBLE FIBRE SOURCING COMMITMENT OF THE BELGIAN PULP AND PAPER INDUSTRY

Annual report 2011

September 2012

In October 2010, all Cobelpa members which buy wood or wood pulp (hereafter called « the companies ») have taken a commitment on responsible fibres sourcing. This report presents the progress of the companies on this commitment for the year 2011. The 2010 commitment document is attached in annex 1 for reference.

Companies's commitment

Early 2012, Cobelpa has launched an inquiry to monitor the progress of the companies towards their commitment. Out of this inquiry, it appears that all companies have FSC and/or PEFC Chain of Custody certification systems in place. The inquiry reveals therefore that :

- All companies have a sustainable fibers sourcing policy
- All companies buy wood/pulp having an ascertained legal origin
- All companies respect the legislation for the purchase of wood/pulp
- All companies implement a reporting/tracking system for wood/pulp purchase
- All companies are controlled by an external verifier
- All companies preferably buy wood/pulp coming from sustainable certified forests like FSC or PEFC
- All companies have organized specific training sessions on fibers sourcing

Through this inquiry, **all companies have therefore declared respecting their commitments under point 1 of the commitment.**

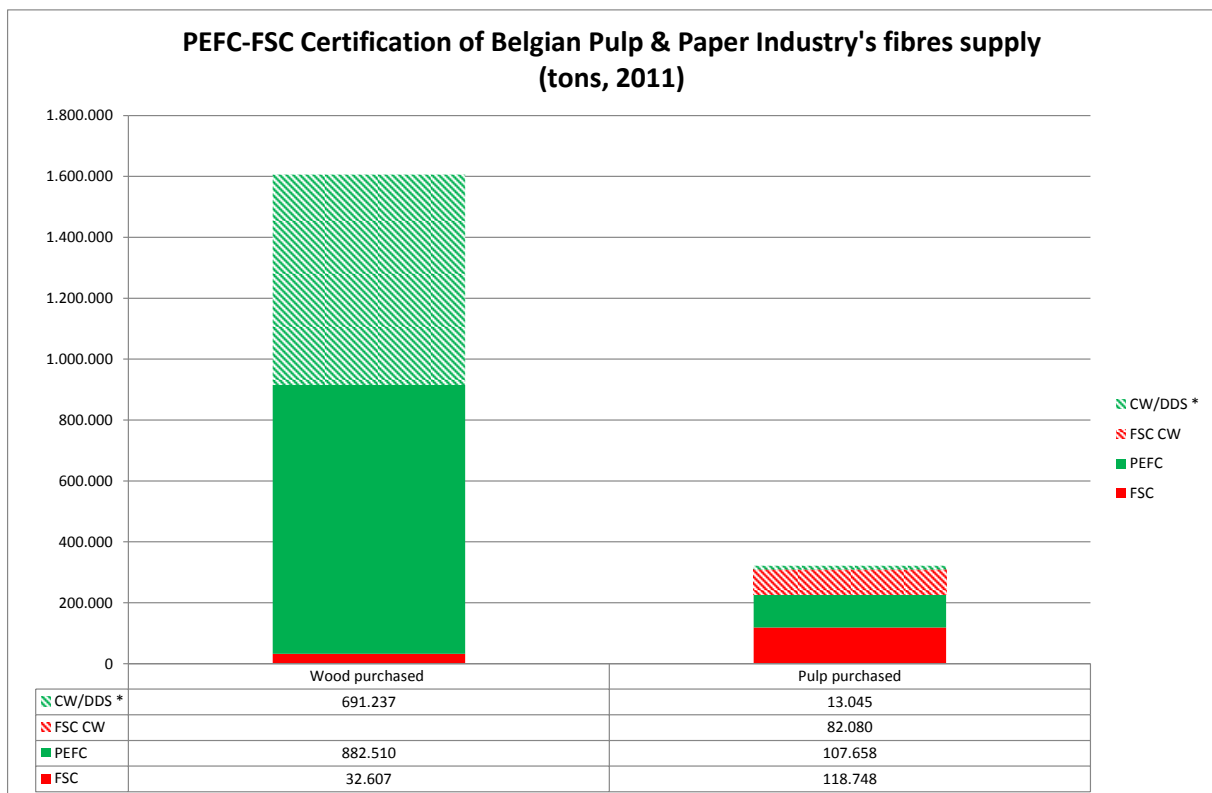
The existence of Chain of Custody certifications and the commitment on legal origin of fibres are at the heart of this companies' commitment. In order to ascertain the respect of these specific commitment, an external verification was therefore foreseen in the commitment. Based on the inquiry above mentioned, Control Union visited all the companies in order to verify :

- The existence and the nature of certification schemes (FSC or PEFC)
- The status of the audit reports under these certifications
- The volumes of wood and pulp purchases reported by the companies

After a thorough verification, Control Union declared to : « *have verified the wood-based input amounts of the companies that undersigned the Responsible Fibres Sourcing Commitment and have found them in accordance with the statement ‘Only legal wood-based input products are used’. The ... information of all companies involved are also verified* ». The Statement of Conformity from Control Union is provided in annex 2.

Sector agregation

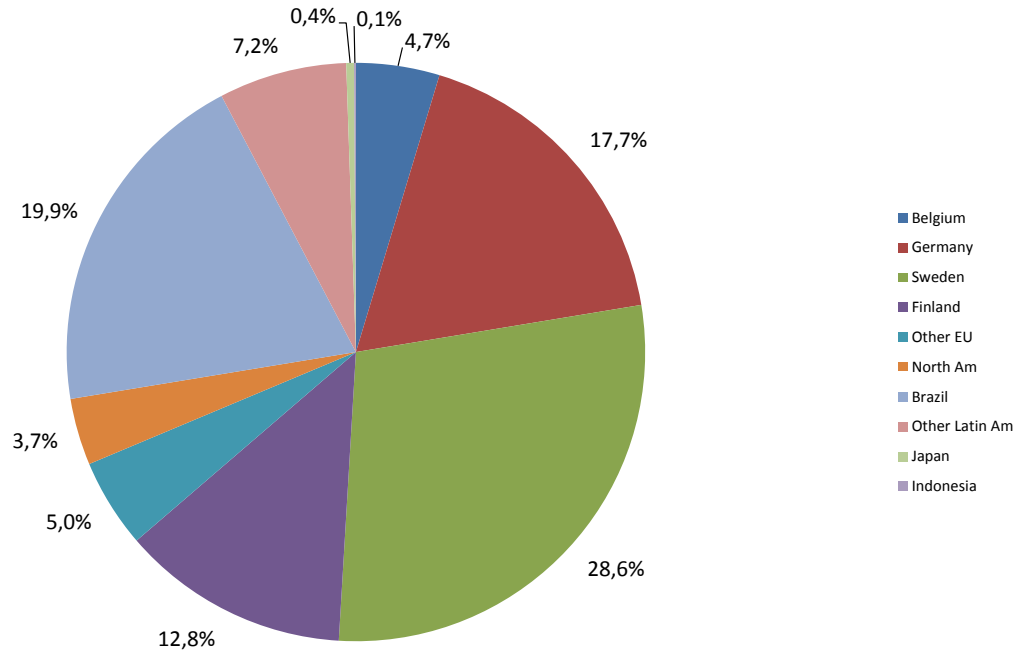
As foreseen under point 2 of the commitment, Cobelpa has agregated the figures forwarded by the companies and previously verified by Control Union. The result of this compilation is summarized in the graph here under.



This compilation at sector level of the companies data has also been verified by Control Union which states in its Statement of Conformity : « **The agregated figures ... are also verified** » (see annex 2).

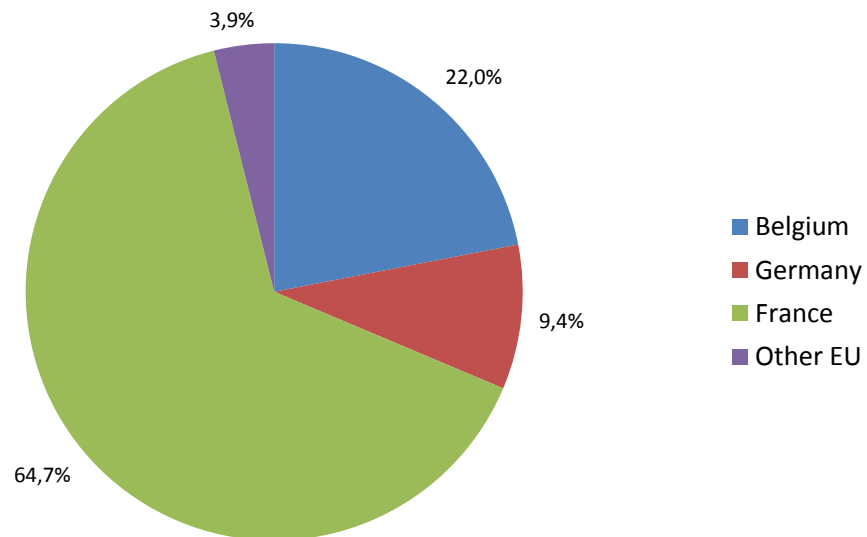
The sector commitment also foresees a yearly reporting on the fibre origin. The data on the origin of wood and pulp purchases have been collected and are summarized here under.

**Origin of Pulp consumed by Belgian Paper industry (321.500 t)
2011**



	Europe					North Am	Latin Am		Asia		Total
	Belgium	Germany	Sweden	Finland	Other EU	North Am	Brazil	Other Lati	Japan	Indonesia	
Pulp ('000 t)	15	57	91,8	41	16	12	64	23	1,4	0,3	
					220,8	12		87		1,7	321,5

**Origin of Wood purchased by Belgian pulp industry (1.606.000)
2011**



	Belgium	Germany	France	Other EU	
Wood ('000t)	352.651	150.923	1.040.021	62.760	1.606.354



Based on the above, it appears that all the companies which buy wood or wood pulp ⁽¹⁾, have respected their commitment for the year 2011. These companies are hereafter listed, as foreseen in the commitment :

AHLSTROM MALMEDY SA

BURGO ARDENNES SA

IDEM PAPERS SA

LPC BELGIUM NV

SAPPI NV

SCA HYGIENE PRODUCTS SA

Conclusions

The respect by the companies of their commitments on responsible fibre sourcing for the year 2011 has been ascertained by an independant verifier. The present report fulfills complementary sector commitments and confirms the achievement of the commitment as a whole.

From 2013 onwards, all companies importing wood or pulp from outside Europe will have to demonstrate its legal origin. Through this initiative and this report, the Belgian pulp and paper industry demonstrates, 2 years in advance, its compliance with this future European obligation, as a European première.

(1) In 2011, virgin fibers represented 32 % of the fibre supply of the Belgian paper industry. Recovered fibers ensured the other 68 % of this supply