



Promoting Sustainable Forest Management

PEFC UK Limited

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press release

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Board Changes at PEFC UK Ltd.

PEFC UK Ltd announced today (Wednesday 23 November 2005) new appointments to its Board.

Michael Clark has been appointed as the new Chairman of PEFC UK Ltd. He will be joining the Board to take on this role. Clark is a Vice President of the Consumer Packaging Division of the M-real Corporation as well as being a board member of the PEFC Council in Luxembourg. Clark is also the current President of Pro Carton International.

Clark's appointment follows the confirmation that Len Yull will be stepping down as Chairman and National Secretary of PEFC UK Ltd, with immediate effect. This confirmation follows his announcement at this year's Annual General Meeting of PEFC UK Ltd [1].

Yull has had a long and distinguished career stretching over more than 40 years in the forestry industry and has held, and continues to hold, a number of important positions within the sector. In 2000, he was responsible for establishing PEFC in the UK and has run it since then. Yull will continue as a director of the company.

Michael Clark, the incoming Chairman, comments: "Len Yull will be a hard act to follow. He has demonstrated total commitment, firstly to the cause of global sustainable forest management and, secondly, to PEFC in the UK. I am very grateful that he has ensured that I can take over as Chairman of a Board which has been re-enforced to help achieve PEFC's key objective of delivering the rapid extension of certified sustainable forest management systems throughout the world. In this context PEFC sees different, credible certification systems as having entirely complementary and desirable goals. This can be achieved through a mechanism of mutual acceptance, as, for example, developed by the UK Government's Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET) [3] process. The new PEFC UK Board is committed to a strategy of "Building Bridges," to work with others to deliver these critical objectives."

Willie Walker is joining PEFC UK (Ltd) to take on the pivotal role of National Secretary. Walker has been professionally engaged in the forest industry for over 40 years, both at home and overseas. Since the early 1990's he has managed CANOPY, a sustainable forestry consultancy, which has been actively involved in forest certification [2], training and development programmes. He is Chairman of the Professional Examination Board of the Institute of Chartered Foresters.

The board of PEFC UK Ltd has been further strengthened by the appointment of a number of other new directors.

Professor Hugh Miller OBE is a former Head of the Department of Forestry at the University of Aberdeen and brings to the board a very distinguished academic record as well as a wealth of experience and involvement in forestry matters, both in the UK and abroad.

Peter Latham is Deputy Chairman of James Latham plc., a leading company in the UK timber industry. Latham, Chair of Forests Forever Council, serves on the Governing Board of the Timber Trades Federation and is on the Council of the Commonwealth Forestry Association.

Martin Gale is Vice President, International Forestry at UPM-Kymmene Corporation, a Non Executive Forestry Commissioner, a Non Executive Director of BSW Timber plc., a Director of Forest Industries (UK) Ltd. and a former President of the Confederation of Paper Industries

Editors' Notes

[1] PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes)

PEFC is a framework for the mutual recognition of credible national or regional forest certification schemes that have been developed based on internationally recognised requirements for sustainable forest management. Since its launch in 1999, PEFC has become the largest forest certification umbrella organisation covering national schemes from all over the world, delivering hundreds of millions of tonnes of wood to the processing industry and then on to the market place from over 125 million hectares of certified forests. PEFC has strong grass roots support from many stakeholders including the forestry sector, governments, trade associations, trade unions and non-governmental organisations.

[2] Forest Certification

Forest certification is a process, which provides an assurance mechanism to purchasers of wood and paper products that the wood used in the products comes from sustainably managed forests. Sustainably managed forests are those whose management implements performance standards based on internationally agreed environmental, social and economic requirements.

[3] CPET (Central Point of Expertise on Timber)

In 2004, the UK Government established the Central Point of Expertise on Timber to assess all five of the internationally recognised certification schemes and provide guidelines for central government departments on legal and sustainable timber procurement.

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