

TIMBER RETAIL COALITION

1. Mission Statement

TRC members believe that customers of timber and timber products want to know that the wood they buy is legal, responsibly sourced and sustainable. Its members have come together to raise awareness of the need for clear and workable practices to be in place so that customers can be confident this is the case. These practices should be based on a combination of voluntary and statutory arrangements.

It will also campaign on broader timber issues, such as deforestation and its impact on climate change, the production of leather, beef and soya-based products, and other factors which could contribute to deforestation.

The TRC will campaign at all levels of government in the EU to ensure that regulation and legislation is both effective and workable. It will also engage with other companies which use timber and with relevant Non-Governmental Organisations. In addition, it will communicate with policymakers, the media and consumers to get across its messages on global best practice in timber sustainability.

2. Terms of Reference

- The Timber Retail Coalition consists of retail companies who share an interest in promoting the benefits of legal, responsibly sourced and sustainable timber, and who have in place management structures and policies which ensure their business practices reflect this. Its founding members are Kingfisher, Marks & Spencer, Carrefour and IKEA.
- Secretariat functions are currently carried out by the European Retail Round Table.
- The Coalition will campaign publicly and privately to ensure that legislation on and regulation of timber products in EU markets is effective and workable. Such activities will focus on relevant EU institutions, Member State authorities, and Non-Governmental Organisations.
- The Coalition will also raise awareness of the ethical use of timber more widely and campaign on broader environmental issues related to timber sourcing and use, including deforestation and the link to climate change.
- The Coalition will target media activity at EU level and national, local and trade publications in relevant countries.

- Opportunities to raise the profile of the TRC will be sought through meetings, events and conferences organised by the TRC and third parties.
- The TRC will be open to new members. Criteria for membership, and the process for approving potential new entrants, are outlined below.
- Third party endorsement of the TRC will also be encouraged and any such endorsements will be displayed as appropriate on TRC literature, including online.
- The TRC will be reviewed in June 2012 to establish whether its aims and objectives have been achieved and if its raison d'être remains valid.

3. Membership Criteria and New Member Approval Procedure

In order to be considered for membership, companies must meet the following criteria:

- Be a retailer of timber and / or timber-based products;
- Have retail outlets in the European Union;
- Agree - at CEO level - with this Mission Statement and Terms of Reference.

Any company that wishes to join the TRC should submit a letter to the Secretariat, from the company's CEO, stating that it meets all of the above criteria. The Secretariat will carry out basic checks to ensure that companies are legitimate, including asking for proof of their commitment to legal, responsibly sourced and sustainable timber, through evidence cited in their sustainability or equivalent report.

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