

KINGFISHER



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Measures to ban illegal timber backed by major European retailers

Illegal timber is set to be banned in the European Union from 2012 under an agreement reached by EU member states, the European Parliament and European Commission.

Europe's leading retailers Kingfisher, Marks & Spencer, Carrefour and IKEA, who together form the **Timber Retail Coalition**, have called for such a regulation for some time, and support the measures which have now been agreed and which will help curb deforestation.

The new regulation will be based on 'due diligence' measures, which the Timber Retail Coalition campaigned hard for. This includes, among other obligations, requirements for companies to provide information about the origin of the timber used in timber products and its compliance with national forestry legislation. Although this will be challenging to implement and a number of questions will still need to be clarified, the TRC members are keen to work with the European Commission to find clever and workable solutions on how to implement the regulation in practice.

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