



BWf • Building and Wood Workers' International
BHI • Bau- und Holzarbeiter Internationale
BTI • Byggnads- och Träarbetar-Internationalen
IBB • Internationale des Travailleurs du Bâtiment et du Bois
ICM • Internacional de Trabajadores de la Construcción y la Madera

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3 March 2022 Geneva, Switzerland

Open letter to
Members of the Board of Directors of PEFC International
And CC Michael Berger, acting SG and CEO

Dear Members of the Board of Directors,

As an International Stakeholder Member representing 12,5 million workers, I am writing to you to raise our concerns related to the current forest management and chain of custody certification in the territories of the Russian Federation and the republic of Belarus. On the latter certificates we already expressed our concerns, but they are deepened and extended due to the military invasion of Russian and Belarussian forces into Ukraine.

Amid such an extensive armed conflict, looking at the existing but also increasing repression against people with an alternative view we believe that no credible independent assessment or auditing can be undertaken, nor do we believe that stakeholders can in all freedom express their concerns or observations when they experience that the certified companies are no longer complying with the core requirements of the issued certificates.

This is of course at the heart of any robust and credible forest certification scheme which is aimed at awarding responsible certificate holders.

Seeing that there is also direct relation between the state revenues and the production and export of forests products and that these revenues shall be used to finance the war efforts in Ukraine we expect that the Board of Directors will decide to suspend with immediate effect all issued and valid certificates and end all trade licenses and other agreements which are directly related to or based in Russia and Belorussia.

Looking forward to your positive acknowledgement,

Best regards,

Ambet Yuson
General Secretary, BWf