

26 February 2007

Information Note

On 21 February 2007, a meeting was held at the FSC International Center in Bonn, between Bureau Veritas Certification, France¹, FSC International Center (FSC IC)² and Accreditation Services International (ASI)³.

The meeting was asked for by Bureau Veritas Certification, France to seek clarification on various aspects of the recent suspension of their accreditation in Cameroon by the FSC. Bureau Veritas Certification, France informed the FSC and ASI representatives that over the past two to three years Bureau Veritas Certification has invested substantial time and resources in promoting the FSC in central Africa and that this effort is currently showing in the success of the FSC in the Congo Basin. Bureau Veritas Certification, France also recognizes that the context in Cameroon is particularly complex. Upon receiving notification of the suspension decision for Cameroon, Bureau Veritas Certification, France immediately undertook to re-confirm their commitment to comply with all FSC accreditation requirements and to seek clarification with the FSC and ASI on the best possible measures to address as early as possible the issues which led to the suspension.

At the meeting all outstanding issues were discussed between Bureau Veritas Certification, ASI and FSC. Based on substantial additional evidence which Bureau Veritas Certification presented to ASI, it was concluded that Bureau Veritas Certification could successfully seek re-instating their full accreditation within a very short time. It was decided between Bureau Veritas Certification and ASI to schedule the respective accreditation audit as soon as technically possible. The accreditation audit will coincide with the annual certification surveillance audit of Wijma, Douala in Cameroon.

¹ Bureau Veritas France represented by the Executive Director, Mr. Romain Petit and the manager of the Eurocertifor program Mr. Antoine Huguet.

² FSC International Center (FSC IC), represented by the Executive Director, Mr. Heiko Liedeker.

³ Accreditation Services International (ASI), represented by the Managing Director, Mr. Hubert de Bonafos

Mr. Heiko Liedeker, Executive Director of the FSC expressed his appreciation of Bureau Veritas Certification for seeking immediate clarification on the best possible measures to address the issues which led to the suspension, and for having already taken substantial additional steps to regain full accreditation.

Heiko Liedeker

Romain Petit

Hubert de Bonafos

for the FSC IC

for Bureau Veritas Certification

for ASI

This document presents an agreed summary of the meeting intended for transparent information of parties concerned.