



## FSC disassociates from BILT

BONN, Germany (16 August 2016) - The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) has announced that it has disassociated from Ballarpur Industries Limited (BILT) and the subsidiary company Sabah Forest Industries (SFI).

This decision comes after a lengthy review process of the conclusions by an independent complaints panel that conducted a thorough investigation into the complaint filed by Building and Wood Workers International (BWI) in March 2015. The complaint alleged that SFI refused to uphold the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Core Conventions on Freedom of Association (Convention No. 87) and Collective Bargaining (Convention No. 98).

The independent complaints panel concluded that there was clear and convincing evidence that SFI was not complying with both principles, leading to a decision on the case by the FSC International Board of Directors. In its assessment, the Board of Directors required BILT and SFI to submit an action plan and a progress report on recommended corrective measures no later than 24 June 2016, a deadline that was further extended to 30 June at BILT's request.

Failure to submit both the action plan and progress report, as well as show a clear and significant commitment to fulfill the recommended corrective measures, have prompted the decision to disassociate, despite FSC allowing ample time for both companies to implement these actions.

The *FSC Policy for Association* requires certificate holders to comply with ILO Core Conventions. Non-compliance is a violation of the *FSC Policy for Association* and prompts a review by an independent complaints panel and, when necessary, disassociation by the International Board of Directors.

This resolution concludes the complaint filed by BWI under the FSC-POL-01-004 *Policy for Association of Organizations with FSC*.

For full details on this case, please visit the BWI v. BILT [case page](#) on the FSC International website.