

# Belgium beats certified deadline by six years

**Belgian timber importers' confidence that they would beat official targets for increasing certified material imports has been borne out by a market survey.**

The Belgian government, Timber Importers Federation (BFHI), and other organisations signed an accord in 2011, with the aim of boosting certified timber's share of all imports from 15% to 35% by 2018. Progress toward the target is being monitored by Dutch forest and timber sustainability consultancy Probos.

Now the latter has delivered its first interim assessment, with the cooperation of the FSC and PEFC certification schemes, giving market figures for 2012. The results, said BFHI General Secretary Bart De Turck are dramatic.

"The report shows that 1,960,100 m<sup>3</sup> of primary wood products from certified sustainable managed forests round wood equivalent (rwe) were placed on the Belgian market in 2012," he said. "That's 40.5% of primary wood consumption, which means we've

already surpassed the target we set in 2011, and six years ahead of schedule."

The Belgian sawn softwood sector sells the highest percentage of certified sustainable timber, at 48,7% of the total. This is followed by panels with 40.6%.

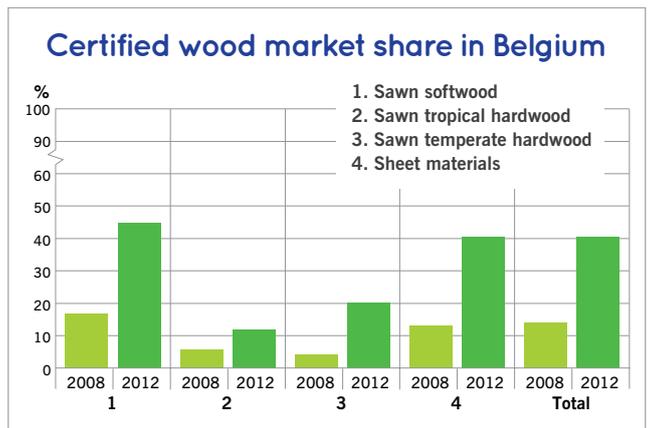
"In sawn hardwoods, the figure is 12% certified for tropical and 20.5% for temperate species," said Mr De Turck. "But the overall percentage of tropical hardwood in total Belgian timber consumption is less than 5% and shrinking."

Of the total of certified material sold in Belgium in 2012, 75% was imported and for FSC material, the figure was 91%. The balance came from native forests.

"That means the greatest opportunity for growing certified market volumes lies in increasing Belgium's certified forest area," said Mr De Turck.



Belgian trader Vandecasteele's Aalbeke warehousing. The company has FSC and PEFC certification



Conference... coffee and cake

## Tributes to Corà and Tengg

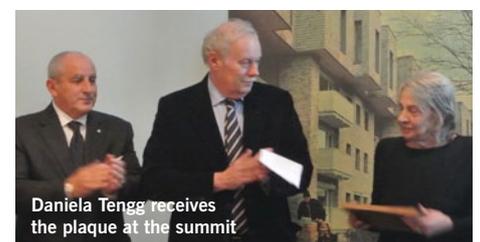
**At its recent market summit with the Austrian Sawmills Association (p5), Fedecomlegno paid tribute to two leading members who have died recently.**

Gianfranco Corà passed away in February aged 82, after heading his company, Cora' Domenico & Figli Spa, for nearly 40 years. He globalized the business launched by his father, opening offices in Indonesia and Singapore, and expanding further into Bosnia, Romania and Gabon. He also set up the Fondazione Corà to provide student scholarships, and received the Italian honour Cavaliere del Lavoro in 2004.

Also at the meeting, a commemorative plaque was presented to Daniela Tengg in memory of her husband, Fedecomlegno vice president Roberto Tengg, who died last summer. Mr Tengg was chairman of agency Agrifor International, and a former president of Promolegno and vice president of CEI-Bois.



Gianfranco Corà



Daniela Tengg receives the plaque at the summit

## Coffee and timber conversation

**What better way to convey timber's market message than in a friendly convivial atmosphere over a coffee and a bite to eat?**

This was the thinking behind the launch of its new Timber Café by Centrum Hout, the Dutch Wood Information Centre.

Held at the Netherlands' Timber Trade Association (NTTA) headquarters in Almere, the Café events start with "short and powerful presentations" from industry experts, with question and answer sessions. Then the audience has a chance to continue the discussion with a drink and a snack.

"The idea is to provide new insights and inspiration, in a relaxed environment," said NTTA Managing Director Paul van den Heuvel.

The theme of the first Timber Café, which attracted 40 'customers', was construction timber. Subsequent events will look at fire performance, exterior applications, new product development and environmental issues.