



Rīga, March 1, 2022

To: FSC International

Against a backdrop of the crimes against humanity authorised and being committed by the Russian Federation and Belarus in the territory of the independent Ukraine as we speak, the Forest Certification Council of Latvia calls on the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) to **immediately act toward the international isolation of Russia and Belarus.**

We call on the FSC to take immediate steps **to exclude Russia and Belarus from the FSC trademark system.** There should be **no products in the world from the two aggressors** waging an unjust and brutal war on sovereign land and its people and **no place for them in the FSC system and FSC label.**

Context

The Forest Certification Council of Latvia includes 26 organizations, 3 individual and 3 associated members. It comprises foresters managing 1.9 million ha of Latvia's forests, 2 certification bodies, 2 universities, Forest Research Institute, Trade Union, environmental and social non-governmental organizations. The council oversees sustainable forest management in accordance with the laws of Latvia and parity principles declared by the FSC.

The **first principle of the FSC promulgates compliance with the law.**

The organization **has committed to comply with** all applicable laws, regulations, and **nationally ratified international treaties, conventions,** and agreements, which it now should rigidly follow.

Forest Certification Council of Latvia