

Forest Stewardship Council  
FSC International Center  
Goerresstr. 15/II a 53113  
Bonn Germany

Att: Michael Spencer  
Deres ref.

Vår ref. (bes oppgitt ved svar)  
Sak nr: 2003-2250  
Saksbehandler  
Jens Erik Romslo  
23 400 614

Dato  
04.02.04

### Tropical outdoor furniture labeled with the FSC logo

I refer to your letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> of August last year, in reply to my inquiry in letter of 14<sup>th</sup> July.

As you know, I asked you to brief us about which routines you follow to assure that products with the FSC logo actually come from well-managed forests. I notice that FSC share the view that people buying products with the FSC logo attached, should be confident that it contains products from well-managed forests. I also recognize that the Rainforest Foundation report "*Trading in credibility*", actually has led to several changes and improvements with regard to the FSC-system, for instance that you have taken steps to separate your accreditation unit from your policy and standard setting activities. I understand that the accreditation is now undertaken in a stand-alone business unit, with its own legal basis. As far as I understand this unit is now also separated from the FSC organization.

Since I took the initiative to review the FSC certification system, the Consumer Ombudsman has completed an investigation covering several Norwegian distributors/importers, where the aim was to find out whether they import tropical outdoor furniture with the FSC logo made out of wood from Indonesian teak plantations. This investigation has uncovered that most of the distributors in Norway are aware of the fact that Indonesia does not have any certificated plantations anymore. My impression is still that there will be very little, if any, such furniture sold in the Norwegian market this year

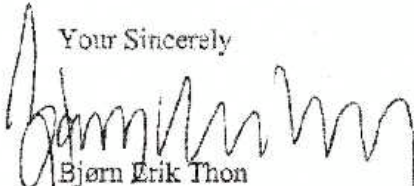
I will, however, during the coming year give top priority to making sure that use of labels or other claims which are likely to make the impression that products have special ethical- og environmental qualities, are not misleading.

I have concluded that all use of the FSC logo in 2004 on products made of Indonesian wood will be considered to be misleading and in conflict with the section 2 of the Marketing Control Act, even though the wood contained in the products has been cut down and certified before the certification was withdrawn.

I would greatly appreciate a continuing dialogue with the FSC, especially regarding how similar cases that may arise in the future should be handled. I would also like to know if and how the handling of such cases has been described in your criteria for use of the logo.

I look forward to receiving your reply as soon as possible, and no later than 4 weeks from today's date.

Your Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bjørn Erik Thon', written in a cursive style.

Bjørn Erik Thon  
Consumer Ombudsman