

34/2025

ENHANCING THE RECOGNITION OF FSC CERTIFICATION IN INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

Edited | Policy Motion

	Proposed By	Seconded By	Seconded By
Name	Caroline Duhesme	Alan Smith	John Palmer
Organization / Individual	ATIBT - Congo	Smith, Alan, Dr.	Palmer, John, Mr.
Chamber / Subchamber	Economic / South	Social / North	Environmental / North

Policy Motion (Motion text / High-level action request):

Note from the Secretariat: This motion was accepted by the Motions Committee. It was amended on 19 September, 2025. You will find the original motion at the bottom of this page, in the background documents.

This motion proposes that FSC **strengthen its efforts to promote the recognition** of FSC certification as **a credible contributor to compliance pathways** within key international environmental and trade regulations, while continuing to ensure the robustness and reliability of its traceability systems such as **FSC TRACE**.

These regulations include, but are not limited to:

- The **EUDR** - European Union Deforestation Regulation
- **CITES** – Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
- **FLEGT** – Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
- **Lacey Act**
- **CSDDD** – the upcoming Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (*which primarily focuses on transparency, materiality assessment, and corporate disclosure obligations*).

To achieve this, **FSC commits to:**

1 **Engage** with regulatory authorities, governments, and key stakeholders **to communicate how FSC standards and systems support regulatory objectives**, while maintaining FSC's independent and chamber-balanced standard-setting process.

This collaboration will respect principles of fair competition and avoid any obligation to adapt FSC standards to external frameworks.

2 **Develop** a clear and credible framework to demonstrate **complementarity and mutual recognition**, where possible, between FSC certification and regulatory requirements.

This may include strategic collaborations with initiatives such as the Accountability Framework Initiative (AFi), to align with international best practices.

3 **Promote** FSC certification as a **voluntary, market-based mechanism** that helps certified companies meet regulatory expectations, reduce duplication of efforts, and streamline compliance – particularly in areas of **legality, traceability, and sustainable practices**.

4 **Enhance support for smallholders** by developing inclusive, practical approaches to certification, including **group certification models** and **simplified compliance tools**, enabling them to access regulated markets more effectively.

The objective of this motion is to ensure that **FSC certification is better recognized** as a relevant and trusted instrument for demonstrating **alignment with key regulatory objectives**.

This motion **does not propose automatic equivalence** ("Green Lane"), but seeks the **highest feasible level of recognition and visibility** for FSC within the global regulatory landscape.

Background Information and Key Documents:

Environmental and forest-related **regulations** are **becoming increasingly complex**, placing pressure on companies to demonstrate due diligence, traceability, legality, and sustainability.

Frameworks such as the **EUDR** and the **upcoming CSDDD** are reshaping market access rules for timber and other forest-risk commodities. While the CSDDD does not prescribe direct forest-related requirements, it shapes expectations around corporate sustainability due diligence, materiality assessment, and supply chain transparency. **FSC already provides strong assurance systems** –

including standards, chain of custody, and traceability tools like TRACE – that can support companies in meeting these evolving regulatory expectations and demonstrating responsible sourcing practices.

? This motion aims to:

- Show that the FSC membership requests the organization **to engage with regulators and public authorities** in appropriate and constructive ways, respecting applicable legal frameworks in different jurisdictions;
- Clarify FSC's value as a **credible and independent contributor** to legal compliance;
- **Promote FSC's existing tools and systems** without requiring structural changes to the standard;
- **Protect the voluntary and chamber-governed nature** of FSC's approach, while increasing its visibility and relevance in regulated markets and current or emerging ESG disclosure frameworks.

[34-2025_Feasibility Assessment_ENG.pdf](#)

[34-2025_Feasibility_Assessment_FRE.pdf](#)

[34-2025_Feasibility_Assessment_SPA.pdf](#)

[34-](#)

[2025_FSC_Certification_as_Compliance_Tool_for_International_Regulatory_Frameworks_V1_20250313.pdf](#)