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Taking a livelihood approach to forest conservation since 1989

Mr. Liam-Anthony Cashman
DG-Environment (Legal Section)
European Commission
Brussels

13 July 2009

RE: Formal Complaint to DG-Environment Regarding the Widespread Use of Illegal Timber in Ireland

Dear Mr Cashman,

Further to the brief exchange recently with you and other officials from DG-Environment at the Irish Environmental Network (IEN) meeting in the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government headquarters in the Custom House, Dublin, on 19th June 2009.

Just Forests wish to lodge a formal complaint of the on-going and widespread use of illegal Timber in Ireland. Attached please find documents supporting this complaint.

Around the world, illegal logging, criminal exploitation and trade in forest resources are destroying forest ecosystems, undermining the livelihoods of local communities and depriving governments in transition of much-needed revenue. Illegal logging causes environmental damage, promotes corruption, undermines the rule of law and good governance and funds armed conflict. It retards sustainable development in some of the poorest countries of the world. Consumer countries like Ireland contribute to these problems by importing timber and wood products without ensuring that they are legally sourced through credible third-party verification.

Just Forests appeals to your good judgement to use CITES (or whatever tools at your disposal) as a means to stop this practice of timber species decline and make it an offence for Ireland and all EU member states to import illegal Timber.

If you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Roche

Tom Roche

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