Forest Stewardship Council
Board of Directors
Charles-de-Gaulle Straße 5
53113 Bonn
Deutschland/Germany

February 7, 2017

Dear FSC Board of Directors,

The Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) urges you to disassociate from Holzindustrie Schweighofer as a result of the company's proven sourcing of illegal timber and the lack of sufficient control measures to meet the conditions set by the FSC complaints panel.

We believe that Holzindustrie Schweighofer's plan of corrective actions falls far short of addressing the wrongdoings outlined by the FSC as conditions for remaining within the FSC system. Until the company is able to trace all timber purchases from forest stand to its mills—the first and most basic condition set by the FSC panel—and to ensure legal sourcing, it should not be permitted to carry the FSC logo.

For years, Holzindustrie Schweighofer has used the FSC logo to greenwash illegal timber. The FSC panel confirmed this fact in its detailed report released in December 2016. EIA's investigation in September 2016, presented in a series of videos which we continue to release, shows that Schweighofer's control measures remain insufficient to keep out illegal timber.

Positive change in the Romanian forest sector can only come when the largest companies like Holzindustrie Schweighofer obey Romania's laws. Recent protests in Romania's capital against proposed weakening of corruption statutes illustrate the sensitive balance of forces in Romania's anti-corruption efforts. The people of Romania need to know that the international community, and international organizations like the FSC, stand with them. Instead, the FSC Board of Directors' decision to refuse to disassociate from Holzindustrie Schweighofer, a company with a proven record of fueling corruption, undermines Romania's efforts to uphold the rule of law.

The FSC's continued failure to ensure consequences for proven illegal behavior on the part of its members risks weakening what, until now, was seen as among the strongest standards in forest certification. Hundreds of thousands have signed online petitions asking FSC to disassociate from Holzindustrie Schweighofer. By continuing to allow illegal wood into the product supply chain, the FSC is eroding its credibility and consumers can no longer trust the FSC label.

Sincerely,



Alexander von Bismarck
Executive Director, Environmental Investigation Agency