



# **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**On-line Meeting (Teams)**

**September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021**



# Agenda of the meeting

- 1 INTRODUCTION (Chairman)**
  - 1.1 Welcome
  - 1.2 Legal guidelines for attending UTIPULP meetings
  - 1.3 Approval of the minutes of the last meeting (webinar, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021)
- 2 MARKET ANALYSIS /Report from the National Associations delegates (All)**
  - 2.1 Synthesis of the questionnaire pertaining to the covid crisis (PA Lacour)
  - 2.2 Report from the National Associations delegates (All)
  - 2.3 CEPI initiative regarding freight costs
- 3 STATISTICS**
- 4 CERTIFICATION (FSC requests)**
- 5 COMMUNICATION**
- 6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 7 CLOSE OUT (Chairman)**
  - 7.1 New date & location
  - 7.2 Close

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## Legal guidelines

- ☐ The chairman presents the main requirements of the guidelines. Guidelines are available at any time during the meeting.

## Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

Webinar, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

[Doc 1 Minutes](#)

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## **SYNTHESIS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE PERTAINING TO THE COVID CRISIS (1/2)**

- ☐ 17 answers have been received (15 companies and 2 national association).
- ☐ For 8 respondents, in comparison to June, the situation has improved regarding pulp supply. This positive perception must be nuanced, because in most cases, the improvement of availability is perceived as limited. Remaining problems are restrictions and logistics matters. One respondent answered that the situation as improved only to a small extent for HW, but more substantially for SW (no other comments between HW/SW than this one).
- ☐ For 5 respondents, the situation is unchanged and for 1, the situation is worst.



## **SYNTHESIS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE PERTAINING TO THE COVID CRISIS (2/2)**

- ☐ Regarding the forecasts, all the respondents see an improvement for T1 2022. These improvements are related to both volumes and prices.
- ☐ Reasons for these improvements are twofold, and very similar to those that have been mentioned in June: (i) the peak in China is over, and it is expected that volumes shift from Asia to Europe (ii) new capacities will come on stream (Bracel, Arauco MAPA,...). Nonetheless, logistic issues (shipping constraints) could delay this improvement (remaining bottlenecks). The lack of truck drivers also is seen by one delegate as a matter of concern.
- ☐ No comments regarding the demand trends in Europe for the different paper grades.

## **REPORTS FROM NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**



## CEPI INITIATIVE REGARDING FREIGHT COSTS (1/2)

As mentioned in the minutes of the last meeting (June 26):

- ❑ *“Since mid-2020, the practices of the container shipping companies have increased the prices for container sea freight from and to Europe, to the detriment of European shippers, including the European paper companies.*
- ❑ *Next to the excessive prices, shippers have experienced a significant reduction of choice and a decline in service levels.*
- ❑ *On 16 June, CEPI, together with several pulp & paper companies and national associations - and a law firm to secure the full compliance with EU competition rules - discussed the rising cost of containers freight, the impact on trade, as well as the issue of competition.*
- ❑ *As a follow-up to this discussion, CEPI decided to go one step forward by setting-up a working group and carrying out an economic analysis based on data to be collected from pulp and paper companies.*
- ❑ *UTIPULP delegates interested to take part in this CEPI initiative are invited to contact their respective national association to have more information.”*



## **CEPI INITIATIVE REGARDING FREIGHT COSTS (2/2)**

- ☐ CEPI organized other meetings on this topic. The last one took place on 6 September.
- ☐ During this meeting, CEPI reminded that its initiative aims at examining shipping companies' recent behaviour against EU competition law.
- ☐ On a practical level, CEPI wishes to collect data from companies. Data will be collected via an on-line survey (open until beginning of October)
- ☐ The benefits to participating companies are, in particular:
  - The full version of the report and analysis of the data collected;
  - The initiative shall trigger the opening of a formal investigation by the European Commission, DG Competition, into the container shipping market and the practices of the container shipping companies;
  - A successful complaint to the European Commission might lead to lower sea freight charges and a revision or no further prolongation of the block exemption regulation;
  - Following a potential Commission decision against the container shipping companies, a law firm CEPI is working with will explore possibilities to recover all damages
- ☐ Companies which want to join this initiative or get more information about it should contact CEPI trade Director (Bernard Lombard): [b.lombard@cepi.org](mailto:b.lombard@cepi.org)





## STATISTICS

- ❑ Reminder: EUROPULP asked UTIPULP to split the inventories of the companies between data corresponding to the volume in the harbors and volumes corresponding to other locations (mills, warehouses, ...).
- ❑ During the last meeting, I reported that *“based on the feed-back from national association, I doubt that reliable figures can be obtained”*.
- ❑ This situation has been confirmed. Therefore, the Excom proposes to stick to the current definition of the inventories (ports + other locations). The Excom also proposes that UTIPULP informs EUROPULP of the need to keep reliable data, and therefore to keep the current method to calculate inventories.





## FSC

- ☐ Reminder: One member alerted one year ago that FSC wishes to put in force a new licence agreement.
- ☐ This new license agreement would have resulted in severe penalties in case of what FSC considers a “false claim”.
- ☐ This draft license agreement has led to a reaction from CEPI and other European association. As a consequence of this, FSC and the associations started to discuss of license agreement.
- ☐ As discussions are still going on, FSCh as normally not put in force its new contract.
- ☐ This “stand-by” situation is confirmed by the fact that no UTIPULP member has reported any difficulty



## Communication (1/2)

- ☐ It was agreed during the last meeting that UTIPULP will rejuvenate its website, now a bit « old-fashioned »
- ☐ As the communication manager that would have taken care of that is on maternity leave, this topic has been postponed to Q4 2021
- ☐ In order to illustrate the website with nice pictures, members are invited to send to the UTIPULP secretariat pictures of pulp warehouses, bales handling etc.
- ☐ Pictures must be without copyrights. Company names on the picture will be erased.



## Communication (2/2)

- ☐ In order to facilitate the mutual knowledge of the members, it is proposed that the diffusion list is now in CC and not in BCC anymore.



# UTIPULP

The Group of European Market wood pulp users

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**



## UTIPULP website : New login and password

- **New password and user name as from September 17th, 2019:**
- **Identifier or user name:** **utipulp** **Password:** **Soft1&Hard2**

The screenshot shows the UTIPULP website interface. At the top, the logo 'UTIPULP' and the tagline 'The Group of European Market wood pulp users' are displayed. Below this is a navigation bar with links: 'Presentation', 'Definitions', 'Statistics', 'Associations', and 'Members' access'. The main content area is divided into sections: 'Foundation and Structure', 'Membership', and 'Chairmanship'. A Windows security warning dialog box is overlaid on the page, titled 'Sécurité de Windows'. The message reads: 'The server www.utipulp.org is asking for your user name and password. The server reports that it is from Page protégée - Réservée aux membres. Warning: Your user name and password will be sent using basic authentication on a connection that isn't secure.' The dialog box contains input fields for 'Nom d'utilisateur' and 'Mot de passe', and a checkbox for 'Mémoriser ces informations'. Arrows from the text in the list above point to the 'utipulp' user name and 'Soft1&Hard2' password fields in the dialog box. On the right side of the website, there are three images: a forest, a warehouse with forklifts, and a large roll of paper. Captions for the images are partially visible: 'Prior to...', 'airman,', 'members of', and 'crédit photo : HAROPA-Port de Rouen/R.Hondier'.

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# UTIPULP

The Group of European Market wood pulp users

**CLOSE OUT**



## Date and location of the next meeting

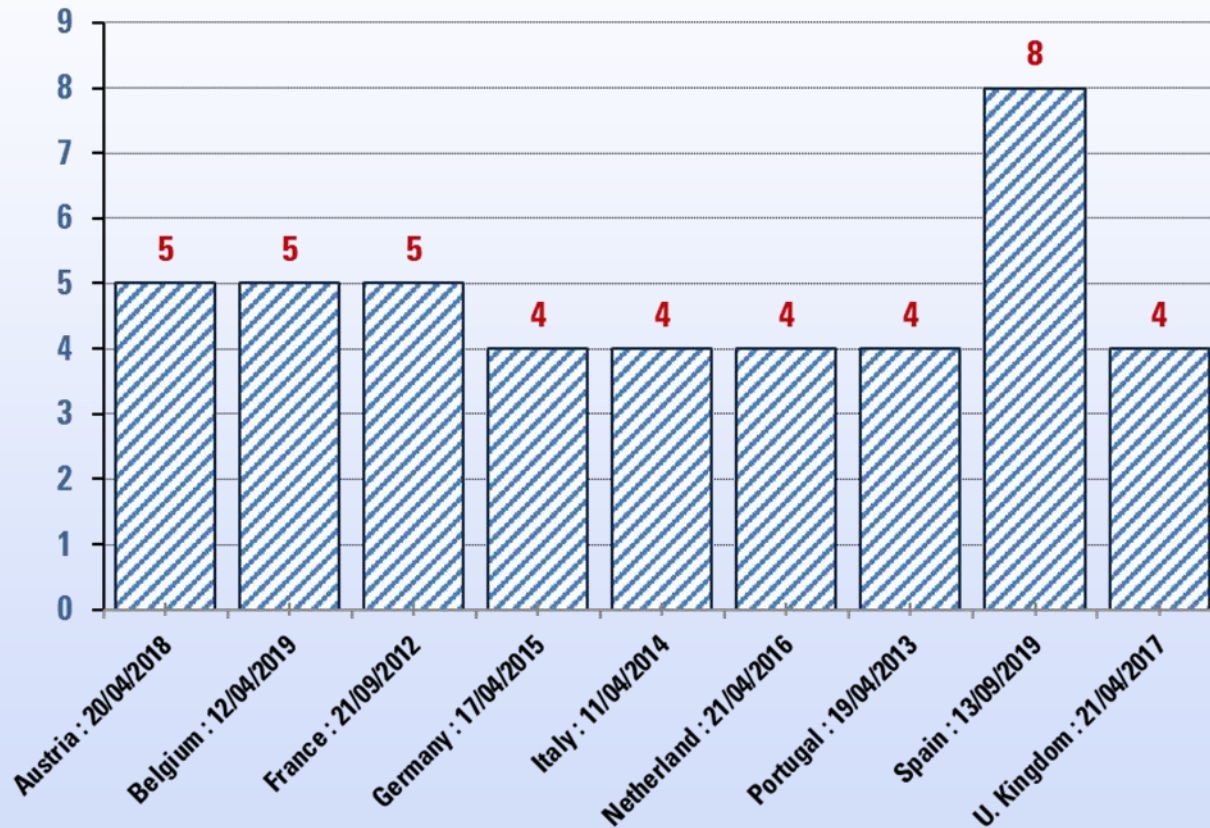
### **APRIL MEETING 2022**

- ☐ Wednesday 27 : Excom (14:30/15:45) & social event (16:00/18:00) + dinner
- ☐ Thursday 28 (8:30/12:30): General Assembly + lunch





## *Date and location of the previous meetings*



September 16th, 2021