



From the Secretary of State

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D Mr Sizer

I am writing to let you know about the outcome of the recent meeting of G8 Environment and Development Ministers to discuss illegal logging. I attach a copy of the joint statement agreed by Ministers.

I was delighted by the support given by G8 partners to a range of practical actions to address illegal logging. We will review our progress in taking forward these commitments and publish the findings.

The G8 meeting took place one week after the meeting of forest industry leaders, government representatives and NGOs that The Forest Dialogue organised in Hong Kong. The conclusions that the two meetings came to are consistent and complementary. I recognise that Governments – in both timber producing and consuming countries, should take primary responsibility for tackling illegal logging. However, Governments will not be successful in seeking and implementing solutions without the active involvement of the private sector. I thus welcome very much the follow up actions agreed by industry in Hong Kong.

I am copying this letter to Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP.

Best wishes,

H. Smith

HILARY BENN