INVITATION TO PEFC MEMBERS CONSULTATION – AMENDMENT TO GUIDE
PEFC GD 1002:2008, ACCEPTANCE OF PEFC MEMBERS

Dear PEFC Members,

You will recall that for several years the board and members have been exploring ways to meet everyone’s expectation concerning membership fees, which culminated in a discussion at the members meeting in the last PEFC General Assembly. Members considered a discussion paper from the Board, which contained options based on the principles for funding PEFC considered by all members earlier in the year.

In order to start the planning process for the 2017 budget and beyond, it is now time to pull together those elements on which there was most agreement. These included that there should be more bands in the subscription fees than before; that new members from developing countries should be eligible, on application, for a time limited discount in subscription fees; and that there should be a possibility for members facing economic uncertainty to continue to be able to apply for temporary reductions.

The attached consultation document on the relevant PEFC Guide (PEFC GD 1002:2008 - Acceptance of PEFC Members - Issue 4, Enquiry Draft) has also copies of the relevant application forms for such cases.

Finally we have brought consistency in the voting rights in the statutes and the maximum National Governing Body membership fee, but provided a mechanism for a cap below that maximum which would need to be approved by the Board and the General Assembly to provide maximum subscribers with assurances of stability during periods of rapid growth.

We have also used the opportunity to integrate best practice concerning membership fees for new members joining throughout the year and made some minor editorial changes.

All PEFC Members are now invited to participate in a PEFC Members consultation on the above mentioned proposals. Comments can be submitted by through the PEFC Consultation Tool until 4th April 2016.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Gunneberg
PEFC Council, Secretary General & CEO