



Message from the WMF Chairman

This has been a challenging year for our members despite a recovering domestic market, admittedly from a low base. Our main export market in the UK has proven to be very competitive with currency fluctuations in favour of the Nordic countries. Ireland is the fourth highest exporter to the EU of sawn timber and timber products.

The role of the Wood Marketing Federation to encourage the use of wood and maintain the highest quality has never been more important. We continued to support timber promotion initiatives this year from the London Festival of Architecture to the Sligo Fleadh Cheoil.

The main highlight this year was the 'Timber in Ground Contact' seminar held at Farmleigh in September which was very well attended and focussed on opportunities for incised spruce and the need to maintain the highest standards in the fencing sector.

This year we celebrated the 10th Annual Student Wood Awards which was held last July and my congratulations to all the winners and wish them well in their future careers within the timber design sector.

The main event next year will be Wood Awards Ireland 2016 and we urge all our members to spread the good word and tap into potential projects with strong timber content. It is vital that projects are identified and architects and suppliers are encouraged to enter the competition.

Paul Harvey
Chairman
Wood Marketing Federation

Timber in ground contact seminar

While the WMF seminar 'Timber in Ground Contact' in Farmleigh House covered a wide range of subjects, service life of fencing posts was the main topic. The consensus was that home grown timber is suitable for ground contact use "providing it is treated in accordance with Irish standards" said Paul Harvey, WMF chairman. "There has been much work carried out over the past two decades in developing and revising Irish standards for IS 435 (post and rail), IS 436 (farm fencing) and IS 437 (stud fencing)," said Dr. Eugene Hendrick, Senior Inspector, Forest Sector Development, Forest Service. "With these standards in place the sector has been able to capture and retain important markets."

Dr. Ed Suttie, director of research at the UK Building Research Establishment (BRE) outlined developments in "timber thermal modification and acetylation as well as bio-based composites" and research carried out by BRE such as their national field trial of wood in ground contact. Janet Sycamore operations director, Timber Decking and Cladding Association (TDCA) broadened the seminar discussion to include a range of external timber uses from engineered wood to traditional leisure uses.

The main area of concern for many in the audience related to the service life of treated timber posts as outlined by Donal Slattery, Purchasing Manager, FRS Fencing Systems. Andrew Kidney, production director of Balcas demonstrated that Sitka spruce had an excellent future as a fencing product "providing certain pre-treatment techniques – drying and incising – are employed to ensure long service life."



Andrew Kidney, production director, Balcas Timber Ltd., Donal Slattery, purchasing manager, FRS Fencing Systems, Janet Sycamore, operations director, TDCA, Barry Matthews, certification officer, NSAI and Dr. Eugene Hendrick, senior inspector, Forest Service at the open forum in Farmleigh House at the seminar 'Timber in Ground Contact'.



Some of the speakers and contributors at the Timber in Ground Contact seminar in Farmleigh: Paul Harvey, WMF; Dr. Eugene Hendrick, COFORD, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Janet Sycamore, TDCA; Dr. Annette Harte, NUIG; Donal Magner, WMF; Ed Suttie, BRE; and Donal Slattery FRS Fencing Systems.

Award winning students explore wood as a major construction and design material

UCD, Queen's, Dublin IT, Letterfrack and Bray win top prizes at annual third level student wood awards.

New developments in engineered wood have not gone unnoticed by third level students of architecture, engineering and design in Ireland. The versatility and structural potential of wood was demonstrated by students throughout the island at the tenth annual WMF Third Level Student Wood Awards held in the National Botanic Gardens on July 2. organised by the Wood Marketing Federation (WMF) and presented by Tom Hayes, Minister of State with responsibility for forestry.

WOOD CONSTRUCTION

A number of students researched wood as a sustainable large-scale building material in winning architecture and engineering projects. UCD student Liam Farrelly, winner of the architecture award, explored the use of timber in construction as a more sustainable alternative to concrete and steel. "Based in the Dublin Docklands, my project consists of a multi-storey flexible framework incorporating numerous types of accommodation," he told the jury chaired by Duncan Stewart, architect and television presenter. "Constructed almost entirely from timber, and designed for the parameters of natural daylight and ventilation, my project acts as a more sustainable option to the typical modern-day office block," he said.

However, he said that achieving a wood culture in construction would require a change of thinking and attitude in Ireland. "My thesis is about showing what could be built in Ireland if we had the correct mentality and legislation, and if the construction industry was willing to embrace a more sustainable approach to buildings," he claimed.

James Ward, Dublin Institute of Technology received a commendation in the architecture category for his proposed use of cross laminated timber (CLT) as the main structure with the skin of the building in hardwood timber panels and vertical timber columns.

Graham Watson, winner of the engineering award also developed the theme of wood as an alternative to concrete. The Queen's University Belfast student completed a research project to create "a lightweight, low cost timber floor cassette that could compete structurally with precast concrete floor units".



UCD student Liam Farrelly (left), winner of the architecture award, explored the use of timber in construction as a more sustainable alternative to concrete and steel. Pictured with Tom Hayes, Minister of State, Gerard Murphy, Coillte and Duncan Stewart, chair of jury.

Once again Letterfrack College students were in the running for a number of awards. Sean Burns, winner of the innovation category, dispelled any preconceptions that wood might be too rigid for flexible applications when he designed a process that would produce curved forms. This he achieved by utilising modern technology such as advanced CAD software "to unfold curved and organic 3D computer models" as he put it "so that wood can be used in a variety of bowed and rounded applications in design".

RECYCLED WOOD

The design award went to Stuart Hayes, Dublin Institute of Technology who produced an occasional table created from a variety of timber offcuts – home grown and exotic. Entitled 'Incognito' the table is functional but also works as a design object – style and substance. It has hidden and movable panels that present a 'Rubik's Cube' type puzzle to the viewer.

Barry Flanagan, Bray Institute of Further Education won the new craft/fabrication category award for his project 'Scaffold Furniture' by demonstrating that there is no waste in wood. He completed his furniture design project from waste scaffolding boards which otherwise would have been burned or end up in a landfill site.

The awards were presented by Tom Hayes, Minister of State and judged by

Duncan Stewart, director Earth Horizon, Simon O'Driscoll, O'Driscoll Furniture and Des O'Toole, business development manager Coillte. "These are top professionals in the fields of architecture, engineering and design and provide excellent feedback to all students," said Paul Harvey, chairman of the WMF in his introduction to the award ceremony.

The awards are supported by Coillte – the main sponsors – as well as COFORD, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Society of Irish Foresters.



Stuart Hayes (left), Dublin Institute of Technology, winner of the design award category at the Student Wood Awards with Minister of State Tom Hayes and WMF Chairman, Paul Harvey. Stuarts project 'Incognito' an occasional table, had cleverly designed hidden and movable panels.



Red Pavilion-The Laboratory – designed by the Irish architects, Clancy Moore Architects and Steve Larkin Architects. The striking building used Sitka spruce, eased edged planed sawn wood supplied by Glennon Brothers and a range of panel boards supplied by Coillte Panel Products (CPP).

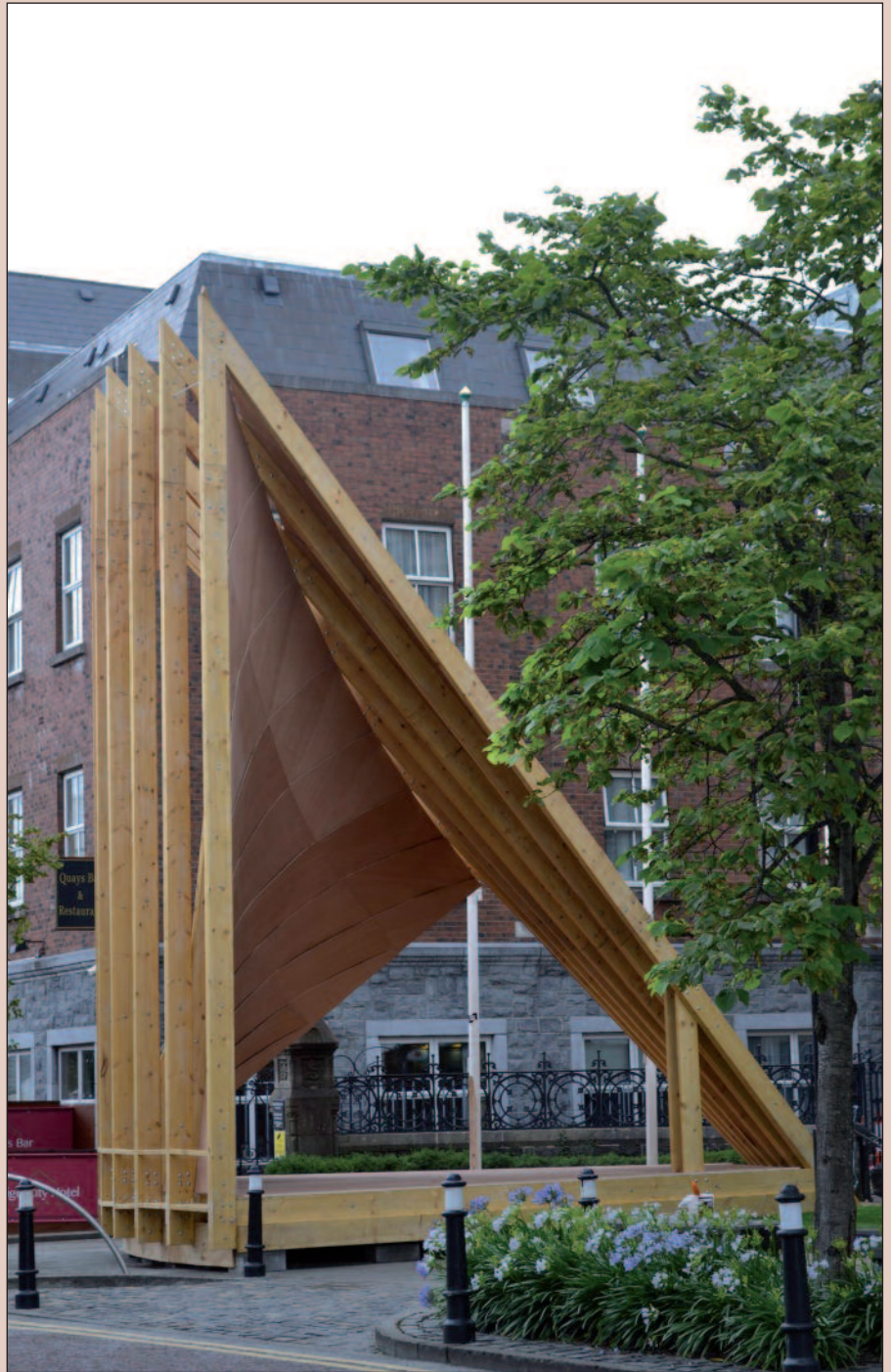
2015 SUMMARY OF EVENTS

WMF had a very busy programme in 2015 including:

- Sponsorship and support for Irish architects and designers at the London Festival of Architecture and Grand Designs thanks to the COFORD, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Coillte including Coillte Panel Products and Glennon Brothers
- Organisation of a major national conference on hardwoods in association with the Society of Irish Foresters. (See our Winter 2014/15 issue).
- Tenth annual Third Level Student Wood Awards
- National seminar 'Timber in Ground Contact'
- Production of publication *Wood Testing in Ireland and UK*

We welcome news and views on this newsletter. Please contact Donal Magner, editor and secretary, WMF by email (wood.ie) or telephone (+ 353 404 61111/ + 353 862607883). See also www.wood.ie.

Murrays make music with Sitka spruce in Sligo



The Murray Timber Group is a strong supporter of community based projects especially in the Ballygar and Ballon areas where their two sawmills are located. Murrays are sponsors of Connacht Rugby, currently the most successful province in Irish rugby. The company also promotes projects that utilise homegrown timber. Last July, the Group was asked to sponsor and supply timber for the Sligo Fleadh Cheoil by the Wood Marketing Federation and Bartley Gavin, chairperson of the committee. The eased edged timber was sawn to the architect's specification and delivered to the site where it was erected outside City Hall as a stage for some of the main musical events. It proved a major success and attracted huge attention from the 300,000 visitors to the Fleadh Cheoil.

The European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR) – implications for Ireland

The International Forestry Division (IFD) in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) issued information on EUTR earlier this year. This covered issues such as the implementation and obligations on Operators and Traders. IFD is the EUTR Competent Authority for Ireland.

Introduction from WMF

The WMF invited representatives of DAFM to make a presentation on EUTR in 2013. We also invited a number of traders to that meeting. The document produced below outlines the implications of EUTR especially for **Traders** and **Operators** which are defined as follows:

Traders are individuals and companies who sell or buy timber or timber products already placed on the EU market. **Operators** are those who place timber or timber products on the EU market for the first time in the course of a commercial activity. The Operator is the first placer on the market and the Trader is the second placer.

Further information: available from Noel O'Connor, IFD, DAFM, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford (tel 053 9165541 / 087 6781590. Information also at Agriculture House, Dublin 2 (tel 01 6072073) or web (EUTR@agriculture.gov.ie). Document is also on WMF website (wood.ie).

EUTR – implementation and obligations for Operators and Traders

EUTR Overview

Illegal harvesting of timber is a global scourge which the EU is tackling. First placing of illegal timber or timber products on the EU market is now prohibited. The EUTR is based on Due Diligence – Information, Risk Assessment and Risk Mitigation.

The EUTR applies to both Operators and Traders who deal in International or Domestic timber/ timber products.

EUTR applies to a wide range of timber products such as flooring, furniture, plywood, sawn wood, particle board and OSB, wooden frames, carpentry and joinery wood, fuel wood, pulp and paper etc.

Implementation of EU Timber Regulation

The EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) came into effect on 3rd, March 2013 and is directly applicable in all EU Member States. The Regulation represents a significant element of the EU's response to the global problem of trade in illegal timber.

Implementing sustainable forest management in practice and on the ground, reducing deforestation and maintaining forest cover levels are core actions which compliment the global response to tackling illegal logging and associated trade.

The Regulation provides for three main actions.

1. It prohibits the first placing of illegal timber or timber products on the EU market;
2. It sets out due diligence requirements for Operators who deal in a broad range of timber and timber products when these products are first placed on the EU market in the course of a commercial activity; and
3. It imposes traceability and record-keeping requirements on timber Traders.

The aim of the EUTR is to contribute to halting the trade in illegally harvested timber which accounts for a significant proportion of the global timber trade.

Both Irish and international timber and timber products are covered by the Regulation.

Operator's obligations under the EUTR:

- Operators are required to work with a fit for purpose Due Diligence System (DDS). They can choose to apply their own DDS or that of a Monitoring Organisation (licensing costs may apply).
- Regardless of whichever system the Operator chooses to apply, the DDS must be robust and comprehensive enough in order to minimise the risk of illegal timber or timber products being placed for the first time on the internal market. A fit for purpose DDS is one which enables a clear determination to be made by the Operator (and to the satisfaction of the Competent Authority) that there is, at worst, a negligible risk that the timber or timber product is from an illegal source.
- In the case of repeat supplies, an Operator needs to apply DDS to each specific type of timber or timber product supplied by a particular supplier within a period not exceeding 12 months, provided that the tree species, the country or countries of harvest or, where applicable, the sub-national region and concession of harvest remain unchanged. If any of these elements of the supply change (supplier, tree species, country of harvest / region /concession) then DDS must be undertaken as normal.

The three elements of Due Diligence are:

- A. Information (to include inter alia description of product, tree species, country of harvest, quantity, supplier details, trader details and documents or other information indicating compliance with applicable legislation in the country of harvest);
- B. Risk assessment (of that information); and
- C. Risk mitigation (securing further information /documentation /verification which demonstrates mitigation of a risk).

The responsibility to comply with the EUTR rests with the Operator.

Trader obligations under EUTR:

“Organisations/individuals who are buyers or sellers of (either or both) international or EU/Irish timber or timber products subsequent to that timber's or timber products' first placement on the EU/Irish market excluding retail customers who are purchasing for their own personal use with no onward trade or further use as part of a commercial activity.”

Traders are obliged to be able to identify:

- The Operator whom the timber or timber product has been bought from; and
- The Traders to whom they have supplied/sold timber or timber products to. Traders are obliged to keep this information for at least five years and to provide it to the Competent Authority, if so requested. Under the European Union (Timber and Timber Products) (Placing on the Market) Regulations 2014 it is an offence for a trader to fail to comply with these provisions.

The responsibility to comply with the EUTR rests with the Trader.