

UTIPULP

Group of European Market Wood Pulp users

22 April 2020

How to handle the request from EPIS regarding the exchange of statistics?

What statistics are released by UTIPULP?

UTIPULP releases on a monthly basis, the 15th of each month:

- A full report reserved to the members (see Appendix 1)
- A synthetic report, available to all on the UTIPULP website (see Appendix 2)

Nota:

- The monthly synthetic report relates to softwood pulp only;
- During the second month of Q_n are released the data of Q_{n-1} for hardwood (see Appendix 3). Consequently, and as an example, the data for hardwood pulp of Q_1 2020 will be released on 15th May 2020.
- The specific treatment of hardwood pulp has been decided in August 2015, following the reduced quality of the data released by the Brazilian pulp producers.

Where are used EPIS data in the UTIPULP statistics report?

- UTIPULP receives monthly from EPIS a statistics report (see Appendix 4).
- These statistics are used to elaborate several figures in the UTIPULP full report (see p3 and p15-18 of Appendix 1).
- These figures are extracted from the EPIS report and are 58 (circled in red). In fact, UTIPULP aggregates some data and uses 31 figures.
- This report from EPIS is received on an oral and long-standing agreement. In order to fulfill the EPIS requirement on non-disclosure (see last page), the EPIS report is not sent to UTIPULP members.

What is the request from EPIS regarding the exchange of statistics?

In December 2019, UTIPULP did not received the monthly report from EPIS. We contacted the EPIS Secretariat, that sent the following answer: *“The Global Review for November was published. However, we are reviewing the distribution lists and restricting the recipients of the reports to EPIS members. Anna Maija Wessman”*.

As a consequence of this we contacted EPIS and asked them to postpone their decision, so that we have time to discuss this matter. This was accepted and, after several exchanges, led to the e-mail below (13 March 2020): *“Dear Paul-Antoine, we had our EPIS Steering Committee meeting yesterday where we discussed the subject matter. The entire EPIS membership supports a balanced, two-way exchange with equal transparency by both parties. This includes receiving your monthly report including both SW and HW data. We are looking forward to a positive outcome from your upcoming General Assembly. Anna Maija Wessman”*.

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Recommendations of the Excom

- UTIPULP will publish again a monthly public report including hardwood.
- This report will be similar to the report published before 2016 (when it was decided that hardwood will be published on a quarterly basis).
- The report will be released with data older than one month. For instance, for the April public report, we would have released the data of February, and not the data of March. The reason for this is to be consistent with the EPIS report, that reports in April data of January/February.
- This new release will be done on a temporary basis, until a discussion in September with the Brazilian pulp producers. The objective will be that IBA release data on a monthly basis, and not on a quarterly basis.
- The recommendations above mirror of a large part of the Excom, but cannot be considered as approved by all members.
