

EUEB

13th March 2014

# **Revision of the EU Ecolabel criteria for the product group 'Wooden Floor Coverings'**

Scope and definition

# What are the challenges for this product group?

- **No licenses up to date**
- Market developments
- Technological developments
- New biocidal product regulation in force since 2013
- Align with existing schemes and standards

## Current scope definition (1)

# Wooden Floor Coverings

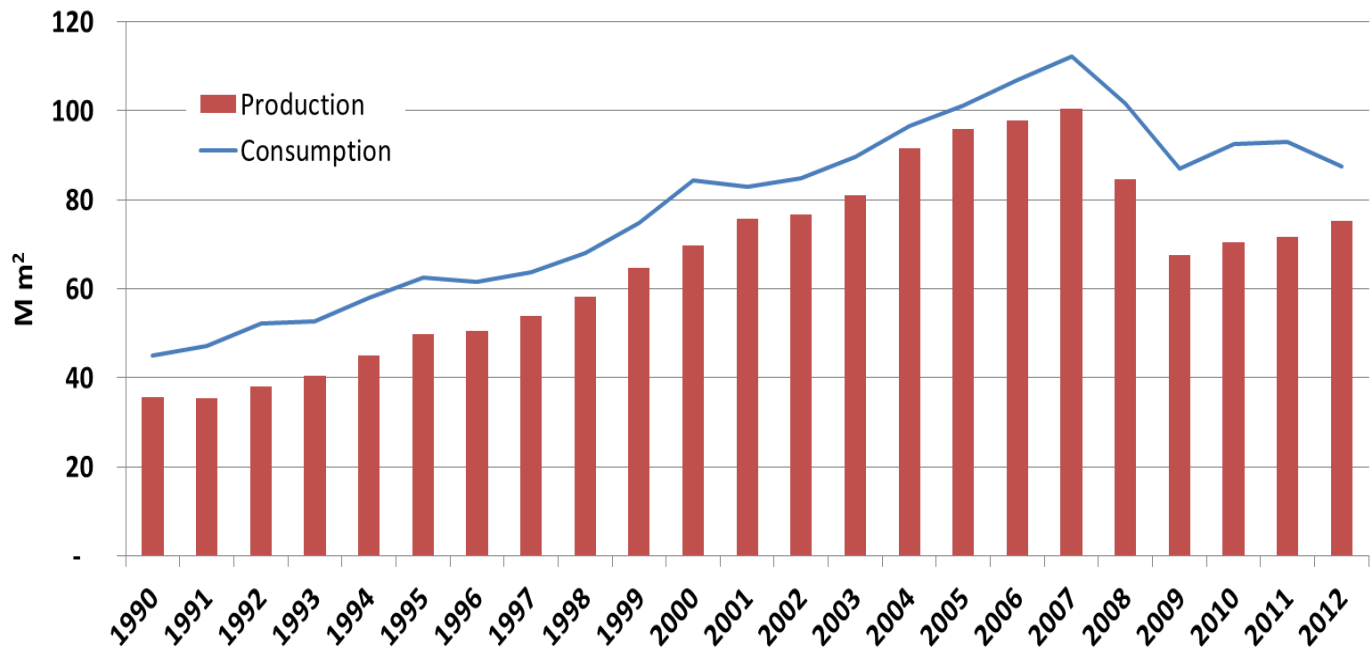
### Article 1

The product group 'wooden floor coverings' shall comprise wood- and plant-based coverings: including **wood and timber coverings**, **laminated floorings**, **cork coverings** and **bamboo floorings** which are made, for more than **90 % in mass (in the final product)**, **from wood, wood powder and/or wood/plant-based material**. It does not apply to wall coverings, where properly indicated, or coverings for external use or for coverings with a structural function.

Taken from the Commission Decision of 26<sup>th</sup> November 2009, C(2009) 9427

From 1990 to 2007, the **production** and the **consumption** of wooden parquet in EU has **exponentially increased**. With the financial crisis of the last years, the parquet market has also suffered a decrease in sales but it seems to **slowly recover** (FEP, 2012).

Wooden Parquet Production and Consumption in EU; 1990 - 2012 trend



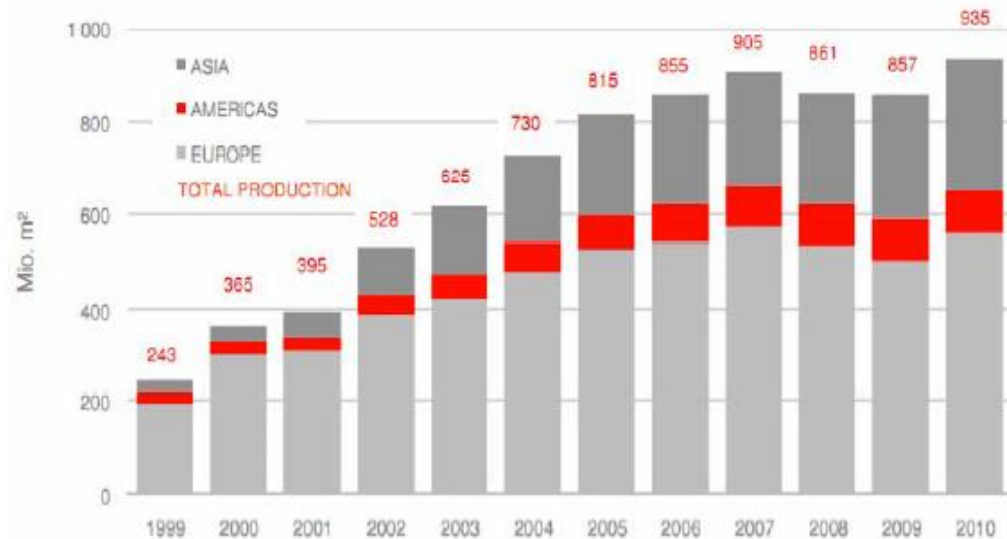
Wood and  
Timber  
coverings

**Laminate flooring** has seen a **strong increase**: in 2010, laminate flooring accounted for **15% of the floor coverings market**, +12% respect to 1995.



**Laminate floorings**

Indication that the share of laminates with <90% wood material is growing – part of the market not covered?



**World Production of Laminate Flooring 1999 – 2010 (Mm<sup>2</sup>)**



## Cork coverings

In 2012, world **cork production** was about 200 kt. About the **86%** of this quantity was produced **in Europe**.

The EU cork production covers the 92% of the total world demand: the EU top producers are **Portugal** (world leader: **50% of world production**), Spain (31%), Italy (3%) and France (2.5%).

The **Flooring**, *Insulation, Floor and Wall Coverings* category represents about the **24% of the cork products market trade**. At present it is not possible to extract data for the floor covering sector only.



**Bamboo  
floors**

**China** is biggest world bamboo producer and exporter.

The estimated annual production of **bamboo flooring** in China was **17.5 Mm<sup>2</sup>** in 2004 (*FAO and Customs General Administration of China, 2004*).

The **US** and **Europe** are the **main markets for bamboo products**, taking around 80% of world trade (*Ecoplanet, 2005*).

The **bamboo flooring market** probably accounts **around 2%** of the wooden flooring market in the EU, but it is expected to **double by 2015** (*Ecoplanet, 2005*).

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# Questions to Competent Bodies

## What can we learn from the current criteria set?

- What is the main barrier to uptake from manufacturers?
- Did the corrigenda work?
- No demand because alternative labels available?
- No added value in labelling in general?
- Too difficult criteria?

## Indications from Member States regarding market developments?

- Bamboo flooring market share?
- Laminate floorings?

## Should the scope be broadened or focused?

**TASK 1:** Stakeholders survey, statistical and legal review, scope and definition proposal

⇒ Identify the **product scope and definition**

**TASK 2:** Market analysis

⇒ **Updating and collecting key figures** at micro and macro level

⇒ **Providing information on the functioning of the market**

**TASK 3:** Technical analysis

⇒ Characterize the **relevant environmental impacts**

- Literature review
- Analysis of environmental impacts along the life cycle
- Environmental impacts which are not detected through LCA tools

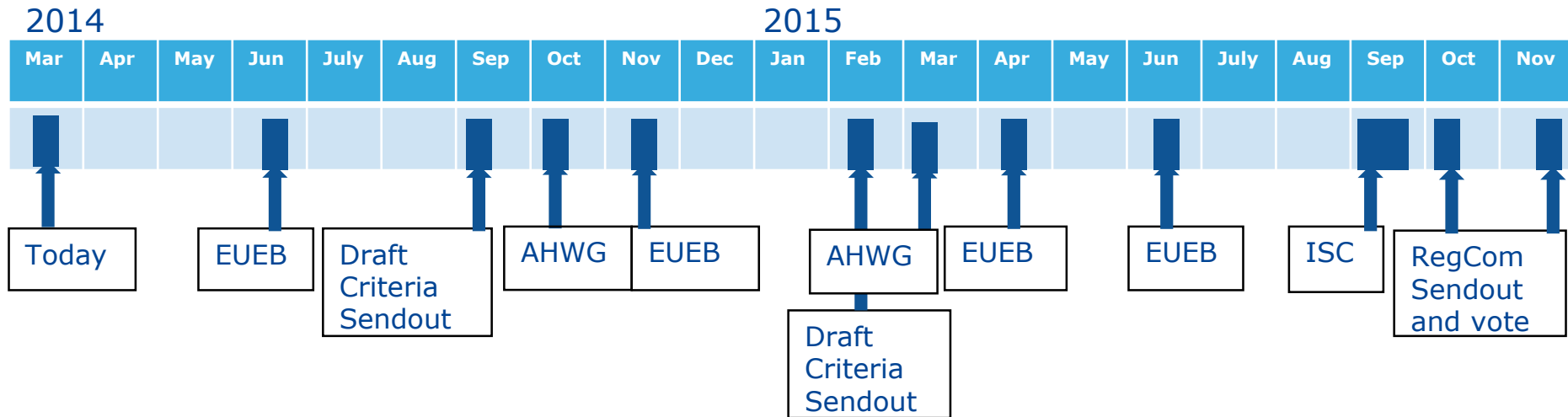
**TASK 4:** Improvement potential

⇒ **overview of the BAT already available on the market**

⇒ **Comparison of the improvement potential options and the related products through a (simplified) Least Life Cycle Costing**

**TASK 5/6:** Technical report including draft criteria proposal

# Timeline





Important legal notice



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# Wooden Floor Coverings

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## EU Ecolabel development for Wooden floor coverings

# Home

Welcome to the 'Wooden Floor Coverings' website

[Projects/Products Index](#)

This is the project website for revising the existing EU Ecolabel criteria for "Wooden Floor Coverings". This study is being carried out by the Joint Research Centre's Institute for Prospective [Technological Studies](#) (JRC-IPTS). The work is being developed for the European Commission's Directorate General for the Environment, with support from LC Engineering.

You can follow the [progress of the study](#) through this website. Stakeholder involvement is a crucial part of this study. By registering as a stakeholder, you can stay informed of latest additions to this site and engage in the consultation. You can always [contact us](#) directly.

The purpose of this project is to develop an EU Ecolabel that awards the best environmental performing Wooden Floor

Joint  
Research  
Centre



# Thank you for your attention

**Contact**

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