



Ministry of Infrastructure and the
Environment

> Returnaddress: P.O. Box 30945 2500 GX The Hague

Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities
Mr. Bernard Giluk Dompok
No. 15, Area 13, Persiaran Perdana
Presint 2

62654 Putrajaya
Malaysia

**Environmental Protection
Directorate**

Sustainable Production
Directorate
Natuurlijke Hulpbronnen

Rijnstraat 8
P.O. Box 30945
2500 GX The Hague
Internal Postal Code 625
The Netherlands
www.rijksoverheid.nl

Contactperson

Ors TF Uprna

T +31 (0)70-3390430
F +31 (0)70-3391288

Our reference
DP/2011044574

Date: 11 MEI 2011

Subject: Considerations on MTCS in Dutch procurement policy for timber

Dear Mr Dompok,

Thank you very much for your letter of February 17th 2011, in which you have expressed your concern that no decision has yet been taken on the acceptance of the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) for the Dutch procurement policy.

As you have indicated in your letter, MTCC has undertaken serious efforts to resolve the issues that have led to a negative judgement by TPAC in October 2010. This has resulted in, for example, additional instructions from MTCC to forest managers, strengthening the MTCS criteria on indigenous communities and on conversion by specifying the way these criteria are to be interpreted. Furthermore, MTCC has informed me that maps of MTCS-certified forests are made publicly available, giving stakeholders the opportunity to fulfill their role as monitors.

I appreciate the cooperation with MTCC to come to an understanding on the necessary improvements of the certification system. The revisions made by MTCC are an important step towards strengthening the certification scheme. I consider MTCS to play a leading role in promoting sustainable forest management in the region of South East Asia, where only 2% of the natural forests has been certified.

Despite my intentions to decide on the issue at an earlier stage, I have come to the conclusion that it is more constructive to respect the wish expressed by the Dutch Parliament that I postpone a decision on the acceptance of MTCS until after this has been discussed in a parliamentary debate. I expect a debate to be scheduled in May 2011 and I intend to take a decision on MTCS as from July 1st 2011. I will inform you of my decision as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

~~Joep~~ Atsma

**Environmental Protection
Directorate**
Sustainable Production
Directorate
Natuurlijke Hulpbronnen

Our reference
DP/2011044574