



SOCIETY OF IRISH FORESTERS

Cumann Foraoiseóirí na hÉireann

Glenealy
Co. Wicklow

Email: sif@eircom.net

Website: www.societyofirishforesters.ie

The Editor
Irish Times
24 – 28 Tara St
Dublin 2.

29 October 2013

Re: Proposed merger of Coillte and Bord na Móna

Dear Sir.

The Society of Irish Foresters, which represents the forestry profession in Ireland, is strongly opposed to this proposed merger. We believe it has the potential to seriously damage the development of Ireland's forest industry.

Coillte and Bord na Móna are engaged in fundamentally contrasting industries. Bord na Móna is developing an impressive renewable energy function but it is not in Ireland's interest that, in pursuit of this objective, it exploits the forests to produce a one-dimensional low priced energy product to fuel large energy-inefficient power plants when the peat supply is exhausted. Coillte depends on its forest reserve to develop and enhance its competencies in sustainable forest management.

Coillte, together with private growers and the wider forest industry, can create the economies of scale required to build a viable world-class forestry and forest products industry in Ireland which will provide sustainable employment in rural Ireland.

The best way to ensure this is through a clearly focused Coillte which can optimise the multiple values of its forests for all our people.

Yours sincerely

Pacelli Breathnach
President, Society of Irish Foresters
Glenealy, Co. Wicklow

President: Pacelli Breathnach, Vice-President: Dr. Conor O'Reilly, Treasurer: Tim O'Regan,
Secretary: Tara Ryan, Editor: Dr. Brian Tobin, Business Editor: John Mc Loughlin,
PRO: Kevin Hutchinson, Technical Director: Pat O'Sullivan.

A Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered Number 258607