

Press Release – 17-02-2014

**Leader in Value Added**

## **Portucel Soporcel group is now Portugal's second leading exporter**

**The Group accounted for exports, to 118 countries, of paper and paper pulp worth €1,215 million, out of total Portuguese exports of these products worth €1,703 million in 2013**

The Portucel Soporcel group became Portugal's second largest exporter in 2013, having exported pulp and paper with a value of €1,215 million to 118 countries over five continents (five more countries than in the previous year).

According to figures published by the Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INE), the Group accounted for the second largest slice of Portuguese exports of goods, topping the rankings for exports of paper and paper pulp, with foreign sales in 2013 worth €1,703 million. The Group has also established itself as the Portuguese exporter generating the most national value added, given that the resources used by the Group are largely produced in Portugal and purchased from companies across every sector of the economy.

With Europe and the US as its main export markets, the Portucel Soporcel group is one of Portugal's leading players on the world stage, enjoying a position of strength which has been consolidated by the impact of its new paper mill in Setúbal. The Group is today the leading European manufacturer of uncoated woodfree paper (UWF) paper and the sixth largest in the world - placing Portugal at the top of the European ranking of countries producing this type of paper.

The Group is also Europe's leading manufacturer of bleached eucalyptus kraft pulp (BEKP), and the fourth largest in the world, as well as being a leading player in the Portuguese energy sector, as the leading producer of green energy from a renewable resource - forestry biomass.

### **Protecting woodlands**

With consolidated sales in 2013 totalling € 1,530.6 million, up by around € 29 million from 2012, the Group, which recorded net income of €210 million, accounts for approximately 1% of Portuguese GDP, approximately 3% of Portuguese exports of goods, close to 8% of total containerized cargo and 7% of the total containerized and conventional cargo exported through the country's ports.

The Group's business strategy includes a commitment to improving and protecting Portugal's woodlands, running its own research programme and managing forestry holdings of approximately 120 thousand hectares. The responsible management practices adopted by the Group are certified under two internationally recognized systems: the FSC® (Forest Stewardship Council®)<sup>1</sup> and the PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes)<sup>2</sup>.

In keeping with its strategy of international expansion, the Portucel Soporcel group is currently investing in a major vertically integrated forestry project in Mozambique, set to culminate in the construction of a cellulose pulp mill with annual capacity of 1.3 million tons, representing investment of 2.3 billion dollars.

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<sup>1</sup> User license code: FSC C010852

<sup>2</sup> User license code: PEFC/13-23-001