



ENFE Press Release

Feb 9, 2009

Poor Timber Market Challenges Clearing of Windfall in South-West France

At the moment harvesting has yet not started. The first priority still is to open the road network and water network, which is of major importance because the Landes area formerly was a huge swamp that had been drained to be cultivated (pine and corn). Channels and drainage now still are blocked by fallen trees and thus ineffective. Further, heavy rain-falls over the last week have slowed down the maintenance work.

The main fear is that an early drought in spring might lead to a high fire risk (in 1948 a huge fire damaged the area and Bordeaux was only saved only due to a change of wind!)

Harvesting and cleaning of course will have to be started, but actually the problem is that there is no market for timber at all. Wood will have to be stored but the question, nobody can answer at the moment, is: WHO will PAY?

The strategy of the French Contractors Association EDT – which will coordinate contractors operations - is to collect offers for forest operations through the labour exchange platform (**have a look on [ww.e-d-t.org](http://www.e-d-t.org)**) so that we are all ready to start immediately when the responsible entities in Aquitaine find the means to pay contractors. EDT work with high pressure on marketing solutions (for example in wood chips).

EDT needs urgently any advice, support, and any information available on potential support that was directly accessible for forest contractors during the last similar events (e.g. in Sweden and Germany).

Any information will be highly appreciated. Please respond directly to Erwann Charpentier at EDT: e-charpentier@e-d-t.org

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