

TO:

Jussi Pesonen, CEO of UPM

Petri Vanhala, President of Paperiliitto, the Finnish Paper Workers Union

Dear Sirs,

On behalf of FINAT, the European association for the self-adhesive and narrow web industry and the national label associations active in 15 countries around Europe, I am sending you the attached statement, with an urgent appeal to the leadership of UPM and Paperiliitto to do everything possible to end the strike at the UPM mills as soon as possible.

As you will read, our associations represent over 1000 label printers across Europe, covering over 75% of the total European market volume of self-adhesive label consumption. Our members produce labels for a wide variety of FMCG customers, such as the food, pharmaceutical and medical sectors. They are extremely disturbed by the news from last Friday that the strike may now be extended from 19 February till 12 March. In recent days, they have been receiving announcements from labelstock suppliers that they are no longer able to fulfill all orders except at extreme delivery times and on allocation.

As we have seen during Covid, labels are part of the essential infrastructure of our modern societies. With now one month behind us without critical raw materials, a period that according to the news might extend to 2.5 months, there will be serious repercussions for these critical sectors. Without labels carrying essential (variable) product information, there will soon be problems with deliveries to final customers in the FMCG markets.

We wish you all the wisdom with the discussions ahead and would highly appreciate that you will factor in the wider 'downstream' impact to the European economy as described above.

Best regards,

Jules Lejeune
Managing Director

