

NEWSLETTER

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PEFC Austria – Pan-European Forest Certification Austria – is a common initiative of family-owned forestry operations, wood processing companies, environmental groups and trade unions for the labeling of wood from sustainably and carefully managed forests. The PEFC certification scheme goes back to the Environmental Conference in Rio and is based upon the resolutions passed in the Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe (Helsinki 1993; Lisbon 1998) by 37 nations in the course of the Pan-European Process. Independent, noted certification bodies ensure that forests are managed in an ecologically, economically and socially sustainable manner according to high PEFC standards. Currently, 46 million hectares of forest have been certified in Europe, around 3.92 million hectares of which are located in Austria. This makes PEFC the world's largest forest certification scheme which functions transparently and credibly on the basis of democratic principles.

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Austria

PEFC – Continued Growth

At present 145 Austrian companies are PEFC-certified to use the logo. All across Europe a total of 473 companies have already decided in

favor of PEFC. Austria exports more wood than it imports. Austria's forestry and wood-processing industry constitute a stable factor in foreign trade. Cooperation among various countries under the auspices of the PEFC Council facilitates global trade of PEFC-certified timber and wood products. With more than 46 million hectares of certified forestland, PEFC is the leading certification scheme in Europe and abroad.

Information: Daniela Steinbach, presse@pefc.at

PEFC Austria's Homepage Well Frequented

According to the latest statistics, our home page is very well frequented. At present around 25 users log in daily, and the "certified companies / logo" page seems to attract the most interest. It is also evident that this new page is easy to find with a search engine. All of the national Google versions (Austrian, German, Swiss, etc.) have already provided a successful connection for at least one user each.

Information: Daniela Steinbach, presse@pefc.at

International Team Designs Wooden Houses



In Austria, designer homes by the group called "Ideen-in-der-Landschaft" are now up for sale.

The timber used to build them comes from Austrian forests that have been PEFC-certified. According to a statement made by the head of the project, PEFC-certified products were chosen, because their motto involves integrated production, meaning it reflects optimum collaboration among forestry, the wood-processing industry, carpenters and cabinetmakers, etc. The concept is based on the exclusive use of regionally grown heavy timber in order to provide another positive impulse for domestic forestry. An innovative construction system makes it feasible to build the houses with solid wood. These designer homes have been planned by a high-carat team of international designers, architects and rock musicians, such as Jim Avignon & dag, Castelbajac; or Nigel Coates and Jefferson Starship. They are being built and sold by selected companies and workmen in the respective region. Basically, this program does not offer prefabricated houses, however these houses are made by craftsmen "at the price of a prefab house." "Ideen-in-der-Landschaft" presents 50 different kinds of houses. All the different versions, from commercial buildings to family-oriented "building-kit" houses, have the same concept: a solid wood system providing a functional and modern design combined with high-tech features and optimum environmental compatibility.

Information: www.holzistgut.com

Jägerzaun Company: Healthy Building and Living - Pongau Wooden Houses



The Jägerzaun company in Pongau has recently been PEFC-certified and has acquired the right to use the logo. For the past 15 years, the company has been constructing apartment block buildings with solid wood planks up to 20cm thick that do not use any bonding agents. Jägerzaun has also been manufacturing a wooden frame house that can be used as passive energy house with

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the help of additional insulation material. The Jägerzaun firm was founded in 1928 as a sawmill. In 1967 it began manufacturing the traditional Pongauer Jägerzaun, followed by wooden products for garden landscaping. The company employs around 140 staff at present. It's decision to undergo PEFC certification was an important step towards environmental consciousness.

Information: www.jaegerzaun.at



International

Germany: Preferential Treatment of Certification Scheme Unacceptable

Preferential treatment of FSC-certified timber by the German government would be going against the law. On the occasion of the "Green Week" in Berlin, State Secretary Berninger, who is responsible for forestry, was presented with an expert opinion on the issue of wood certification. The expert opinion illustrates that public invitations to tender, which prescribe FSC-certified wood, are not in keeping with the valid guidelines for public procurement. At an event hosted by the German forest owners' associations, State Secretary Berninger said that he considers the terms of certification to be the deciding factor. As a result, talks will now have to be conducted with PEFC as well as FSC. He assured Christian Brawenz, Vice President of the PEFC Council, that the German government will take note of the results of the advisory opinion.

Information: Dr. Christian Brawenz, office@hvlf.at

Margaritelli Spa PEFC-Certified



Margaritelli Spa is a wood processing company that is now able to market its wood products with a PEFC logo. Margaritelli manufactures parquet

floors, among other products, and is supplied with timber from France and Finland. The company Legno Sud has also had its chain of custody PEFC-certified since April 2002. Legno Sud purchases its timber from Austria and Finland.

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Africa Needs Forest Certification

In the scope of a regional workshop in Gabon, 14 participants from African governments, as well as other groups of stakeholders, assessed the results of optional forest certification in Africa. The results of the feasibility study make it clear that an African forest certification scheme is required. Henri Plauche Gillon, Chairman of the PEFC Council, was invited to the workshop for the purpose of outlining the progress made by the PEFC certification scheme, as well as its status of recognition.

Information: PEFC, pefc@pt.lu

PEFC Development in Lithuania

In 2002 the first Lithuanian forest owners received PEFC certification. In total seven Lithuanian companies in the chain of custody have already been certified. The development of a certification scheme included the establishment of internal guidelines for forest owners, enterprises and other stakeholders who are involved in the wood-processing industry. The further education of forest owners and business entrepreneurs, concerning the guidelines of the local organizations and the issuing of the first "green cards" and "green licenses," have contributed to improving the overall results of PEFC forest certification in Lithuania. PEFC Lithuania was registered as an independent organization at the end of last year. PEFC Lithuania's council will be working together with Lithuania's forest owners (KSMAA) in the future in order

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to promote certification and the implementation of forest management. KSMAA is an umbrella organization of private forest owners that is responsible for managing forests according to PEFC criteria. In 2003 more Lithuanian forest owners will be receiving PEFC certification.

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Regional Certification Progressing in France



Approximately 450 administrators are involved in establishing PEFC throughout 20 regions in France. It has taken 18

months in order to receive regional certification, and there is still a lot of work to be done to acquaint the forest owners with the draft. At the beginning of 2003, 11 of the 20 French regions were certified, comprising more than 1.1 million hectares (of the total 15 million hectares of forestland in France). In addition, 60 wood-processing and retailing companies have been PEFC-certified. Major French retailers are now selling PEFC-certified products. PEFC France is presently preparing its own homepage: www.pefc-france.org which should be fully functioning by the spring of 2003. It will include news items, contact persons, information, national and regional technical documents. PEFC France has also printed a brochure entitled "PEFC – The label that gives you an advantage," which is available from PEFC France.

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Regional Certification in Spain Too



Catalonia and the Basque region are the first areas in Spain to participate in regional certification.

Numerous interest groups, including forestry experts, consumers and representatives of the wood-processing and furniture manufacturing industries, are promoting and developing this project in order to make PEFC

regional certification possible in Spain by the end of this year. It is to be expected that the certified area in Spain will increase, as a result of the work done by the PEFC Council, as soon as cork is included in the list of certified products. Spain is one of the largest cork manufacturers in the world at 70,000 tons annual production.

Information: Eva Martin Orejudo, secretaria@pefc.es

First Group Certification Model in the USA

The American Tree Farm System (ATFS) announced in January that MeadWestvaco's Cooperative Forest Management (CFM) has been certified in South Carolina. The CFM group includes 340 forest owners who own total lands of 375,000 acres (152,000 hectares). This is the first of five group certification models that were established by ATFS. "Group certification can play an important role towards increasing the amount of sustainably managed forestland in the US," said Joe Lawson, Manager of MeadWestvaco forest certification. "ATFS certification is an appropriate scheme for certifying the non-industrial private landowner, such as those enrolled in MeadWestvaco's CFM program."

Information: Bob Simpson, Bsimpson@TreeFarmSystem.org

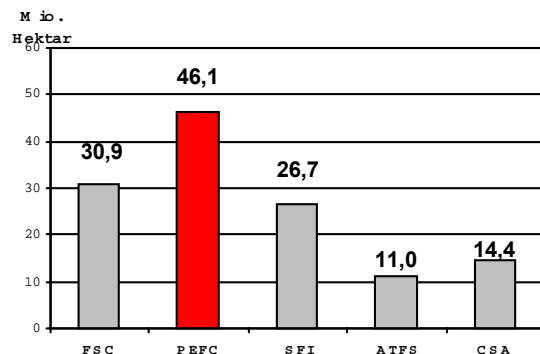
Metsäliitto Becomes a Member of PEFC Sweden

The Metsäliitto Osuuskunta Cooperative is a timber supply operation belonging to private forest owners and is the holding company of the Metsäliitto Corporation. Metsäliitto Osuuskunta supplies timber, among others, to the companies belonging to the Metsäliitto Corporation, including Finnforest, Metsä-Botnia and Metsä-Serla. "Our future goal is that Metsäliitto should supply PEFC-certified timber to the factory in Husum. By doing this, we would like to promote sustainable forest management in our region in Sweden," says Eric Lagerwall, Director of Metsäliitto Sweden. The factory in Husum employs 1300 persons and manufactures pulp and paper. Folke Stenström, General Secretary of PEFC Sweden stated: "This is great news for forest owners in northern Sweden, and it confirms the growing interest in PEFC in the large-scale forest industry. **Information:** Folke Stenström, folke@stenstrom@pefc.se

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Facts & Figures

PEFC - largest certification scheme worldwide



PEFC Pan European Forest Certification
FSC Forest Stewardship Council
SFI Sustainable Forestry Initiative
ATFS American Tree Farm System
CSA Canadian Standards Association

Note: Canada and the USA are striving towards mutual recognition of their certification schemes (CSA, SFI and ATFS) with PEFC International.

PEFC – a dynamic development!

	Forest area in millions of hectares	CoC Certificates
Austria	3.92	145
Czech Republic	1.75	0
Finland	21.91	63
France	0.69	60
Germany	6.10	172
Italy	-	2
Latvia	0.02	8
Norway	9.35	3
Sweden	2.20	20
Spain	0.87	0
Switzerland	0.06	0
Total	approx. 46.10 Million	473

The national organizations of 26 countries are currently members of the PEFC Council:

In Europe: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

Non-European Members: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Malaysia and the USA.

13 Certification Schemes have been recognized and are in operation: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Latvia, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Spain have been recognized by the PEFC Council.

Imprint

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