

NEWSLETTER

Nr.8/April 2003

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 sustainable manner according to high PEFC standards. Currently, 47 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 that functions transparently and credibly on the basis of democratic principles.

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Austria

New General Secretary



PEFC Austria has a new General Secretary. At the end of March Gabriele Herzog left PEFC Austria to work for Raiffeisen Ware Austria AG.

Her successor is Dietmar Hagauer, born in Linz, who has already familiarized himself with all the various agendas since the beginning of this year. A forester by profession, he is a graduate of the University of Agriculture and Forestry in Vienna (BOKU). Since his graduation, he has been working as an assistant in the Institute of Silviculture at the University of Agriculture and Forestry. The 27-year-old likes to spend his leisure time hunting in the mountains.

Information: Dietmar Hagauer, info@pefc.at

New Deputy Representative



At the end of April 2003, Dr. Gerhard Altrichter will be retiring after 30 years of successful work in the forestry interest group. Christian Rebernik will be responsible for representing

the interests of the Austrian sawmill industry. In addition, he has held the function of deputy business representative of PEFC Austria since February 2003. With his assistance, timber certification was successfully established in the wood processing industry and retailing branch over the course of the past years.

Information: Christian Rebernik, office@saege.at

Binder Holz: Success with Innovative Products

The name of Binder is synonymous for tradition and trustworthiness in the wood processing sector, in combination with high-tech and innovation. Forty years ago, it was still a small sawmill operation, however now the Tyrolean family-owned enterprise is one of the leading European businesses in the wood processing sector, using the latest technologies and manufacturing processes. The goal of processing and retailing a wide array of intelligent products, both for interior decoration as well as for outdoor construction, was achieved with the help of the production sites in Fügen for sawn timber and wooden profiles, Jenbach for plywood, St. Georgen for solid wood planks, and Hallein for fiberboards. The products manufactured at these production sites are exported around the world. In the summer of 2001 Binder Holz received the PEFC certificate from HolzCert for all of its products as one of the first central European wood processing enterprises.



The certified enterprise actively uses the PEFC logo. PEFC strengthens the image of the forestry sector and products that are made of wood as a renewable resource in terms of cyclic management. The high standard of sustainable forest management is promoted, secured and documented.

Information: www.binderholz.com

Austrian Companies for PEFC

PEFC is synonymous for monitored processing of wood as a natural resource. Compliance with the respective criteria – from forest management to manufacturing of wood products – is monitored by independent inspectors. This should ensure that the customer has a good conscience when he

www.pefc.at

decides to buy PEFC-certified wood. In Austria alone, around 180 companies in the branches of pulp and paper, board manufacturing, the sawmill industry and retailing have been certified according to the PEFC scheme. Certification is becoming a central factor in the purchasing decision for more and more international buyers and consumers. If the PEFC logo is used actively, the customer can be assured that the wood product with the PEFC logo actually originated in a responsibly managed forest.

Information: Daniela Steinbach, presse@pefc.at

PEFC Successful at Interior Decoration Trade Fair in Vienna

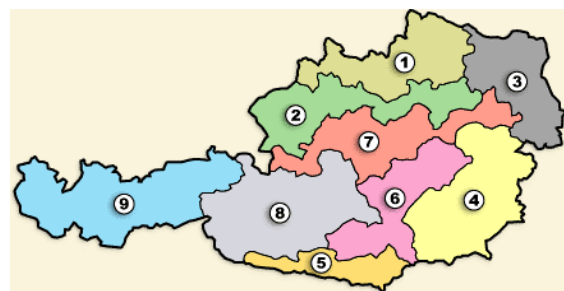
From the 15th to 23rd of March the Living and Interior Decoration Trade Fair was held at the Vienna Exhibition Grounds. The event made quite an impression with an extensive exhibition of Austrian cabinetmaking and furniture retailers. PEFC Austria was also on site at a cooperative stand with the Austrian Confederation of Agricultural and Forestry Operations. General Secretary Dietmar Hagauer had the opportunity to provide detailed information on PEFC to numerous furniture manufacturers, which was received with great interest.

Information: Dietmar Hagauer, info@pefc.at

Regional Reaudits

All of the nine Austrian regions have successfully gone through with the reauditing process. Region 6 has already been audited for the second time. The reaudits were conducted by the Austrian Association of Quality and Management Systems and the SGS. In addition to auditing documents (business activities and system stability), on-site monitoring was also conducted, and issues were discussed regarding entrepreneurial investment, silviculture, work safety and damage by wild game.

Information: Dipl.-Ing. Dietmar Hagauer, info@pefc.at



4th Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe

From the 28-30th of April the 4th Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe was held in Vienna. In the 1980s, forests made the headlines and increasingly caught the public's attention due to the phenomenon of forest die-back. Society thus became aware of the ecological, economic and social values of the forest. On the basis of a regional initiative taken up by France and Finland, the first Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) took place in 1990. The European ministers of forestry committed themselves to pan-European cooperation and thus laid the foundation for an ongoing forest initiative. In terms of content, PEFC is based on the resolutions that were passed by 37 nations in the pan-European process at the Ministerial Conferences for the Protection of Forests in Europe (Helsinki 1993 and Lisbon 1998). Since its initiation in the year of 1999, PEFC has developed into the worldwide largest umbrella organization of national forest certification schemes over the globe.

Information: Daniela Steinbach, presse@pefc.at

International

Italy: National Certification Scheme Completed

Italy's forest certification scheme was officially presented to the Vice President of the PEFC Council, Christian Brawenz, in February 2003. In the scope of this event, which was attended by the representatives of all the Italian regions, the completion of the national scheme was celebrated. PEFC Italy will now be able to submit its scheme to the PEFC Council for the purpose of recognition. Pier Luigi Ferrari, President of PEFC Italy expressed his gratitude to Austria for its cooperation in this connection.

Information: Antonio Brunori, brunori3@interfree.it



Pier Luigi Ferrari, President of PEFC Italy, expressed his gratitude to Christian Brawenz for his good cooperation.

Italian Forest Certification in the Tuscany

In the near future, the certification of the first forest will be conducted in the Region of Tuscany (District of Grosseto, Mount Amiata). The "Consorzio Forestale dell'Amiata" with its 3000 hectares of beech-tree forests was viewed by the "AQA" certification body in the scope of a mountain inspection. Timber from this certified region can be labeled with the PEFC logo when the Italian certification system is recognized by the PEFC Council.

Information: Antonio Brunori, brunori3@interfree.it

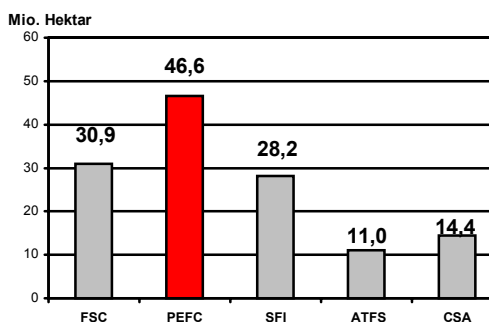
Malaysia Aiming at Certification

The Malaysian certification scheme MTCC (Malaysian Timber Certification Council) is considered to be the most progressive in the tropical regions at the present. In Malaysia, activities concerning certification initiatives are mainly regulated by the government. On the 22nd of November 2002 the MTCC was accepted as a new member by the PEFC Council. Currently, three forested areas on the peninsula have been certified according to forest management criteria, as well as 29 forestry operations according to the chain-of-custody regulations.

Information: Harnarinder Singh, mtcc@tm.net.my

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	179
Czech Republic	1.87	5
Finland	21.91	65
France	0.97	78
Germany	6.38	204
Italy	-	2
Latvia	0.02	8
Norway	9.35	3
Sweden	2.28	31
Spain	0.09	0
Switzerland	0.06	0
UK	0.01	1
Total	approx. 47.00 Million	576

Date: April 2003

**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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