

NEWSLETTER 6/2002

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. To date 42.7 million hectares of forest have been certified in Europe, around 3,9 million hectares of which are located in Austria. This makes PEFC the largest forest certification scheme worldwide functioning transparently and credibly on the basis of democratic principles.

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Austria

New Homepage

PEFC Austria will soon be introducing its new homepage. Modern design and condensed information are the major features characterizing its future image. With a new access system, PEFC Austria can now manage its own links, as well. Important information can be updated anytime on account of these dynamic elements.

www.pefc.at

Public Relations Work



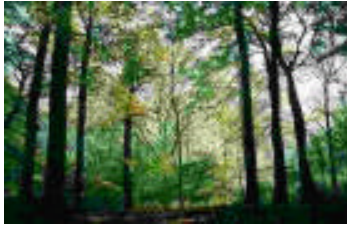
PEFC Austria has expanded its team of personnel. Daniela Steinbach has been responsible for the area of public relations work since April. She was active as an editor on a freelance basis over the past years. Before that she supported the Donau City AG in

marketing, as well as several PR agencies. Daniela Steinbach is married and the mother of a four-year old daughter.

Building Material Chain Stores at the Focus of Attention

Over the past weeks several domestic building material chain stores were visited by environmental activists. Non-certified wood products were marked with red stickers in order to bring attention to the problem of tropical rainforest destruction. PEFC Austria took this opportunity to intensify its contacts with the building material chains. A concrete informational talk was held with the business

manager of a large building material chain store. Through further discussions and leaflets, PEFC Austria would like to inform all the Austrian building material chains about the topic of. Wood certification in order to clear up any uncertainties in this matter.



Chain of Custody Service

PEFC Austria has taken on a leading role in chain-of-custody certification which traces the origin of timber from a certified forest to the final product. Fifty of the 150 operations across Europe, with a chain-of-custody certificate and the right to use the PEFC logo, are from Austria. In order to keep business enterprises up to date on the PEFC logo, are from Austria. In order to keep business enterprises up to date on the CoC developments and the current state of certification, PEFC Austria will be mailing out information on a regular basis. Goal is the active exchange of information. By informing PEFC Austria of their business developments via e-mail, inquiries, suggestions or problems of certified companies can be taken into consideration more quickly.

International

German Owners of Small Forests vs. OBI

In a nation-wide campaign, German owners of small forests protested against the decision made by OBI Retail Chain Stores not to sell any PEFC-certified wood products in the future. This boycott poses a disadvantage and may harm small family-owned forestry operations. Various demonstrations took place in front of OBI stores at the beginning of May with placards ("The beaver doesn't like domestic wood"). In the near future, OBI stores will only be selling FSC-certified wood products, as favored by the WWF. Timber with the PEFC certificate may not be labelled as such. OBI cannot market two different labels due to pressure from the environmental groups.

PEFC-Timber Houses as Show-Homes

In North Rhine-estphalia the first PEFC show-homes will be built shortly.

The timber used to build the houses comes from regional forests which have received the PEFC certificate for sustainable forest management. Ecological building construction, energy-saving technology, as well as high-tech installations combined with a noble design are at the focus of this method of construction. It is an innovative construction system which uses up to 800% more timber in comparison to the conventional wooden frame construction.



PEFC Recognizes Spain's Certification Scheme

The Spanish forest certification scheme was recognized by PEFC at the end of May. The Spanish scheme underwent strict monitoring, as well as several auditing processes. "Forest certification guarantees the public the maintenance of Spanish forests and their recreational value for current and future generations", declared Mr. Nicasio Guardia, chairman of PEFC Spain. At present eighteen countries are regular members of PEFC, the Pan European Forest Certification Council.



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