

NEWSLETTER

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PEFC 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.

Table of Contents

Austria

- 200th Company Certified
- Red Room Made of PEFC-Certified Wood
- Austrian Forest Industry Takes Stock
- Mitteramskogler Co. – Innovation and Environmental Awareness
- Domestic PEFC Beech Replaces Tropical Woods
- Wimmerholz in Kuchl Pioneers Environmental Awareness
- Italian Delegation Visits Tyrol
- Forestry Event in Villach

International

- International Meeting of PEFC General Secretaries
- Italy: Marketing First Products with PEFC Logo
- PEFC France Continues to Expand
- PEFC Presented in Canada and Panama
- Czech Republic: First Certification Body Accredited
- Facts & Figures

Austria

200th Company Certified!

In mid-June the 200th company officially received a PEFC Certificate. The Säge Hirt Co. decided in favor of the PEFC group certificate. "Finally I can offer my customers what they have been demanding for a long time: Timber which is proven to have come from sustainable forest management," said Bruno Rohdorfer, Business Manager of Säge Hirt on the occasion of being presented with the certificate.



Stefan Czamutzian, Head of the independent certification body HolzCert Austria was able to strengthen his leading position in the chain of custody in Europe by presenting the 200th certificate. Säge Hirt was founded with the

sawmill of the Bishopric Gurk. It processes around 25,000 m³ of roundwood annually and has specialized in manufacturing construction timber from winter fellings. Its share of experts amounts to approximately 30%, and the rest is mainly sold to domestic carpentry shops. Säge Hirt has a staff of ten people.

Photo: Stefan Czamutjian presents Bruno Ruhdorfer with the 200th PEFC certificate in the presence of Dietmar Hagauer

Information: Bruno Ruhdorfer, office@saegehirt.at

Red Room Made of PEFC-Certified Wood

Since the middle of June, the main courtyard of the MuseumsQuartier in Vienna has been the site of the Red Room.



This is a wooden installation made by architect Bolker Giencke – an exhibition object and, simultaneously, a spatial experience. It was constructed of PEFC-certified spruce wood, and is on public display for two months for the purpose of wandering through, looking at and enjoying the space..

Information: Daniela Steinbach, presse@pefc.at

Austrian Forest Industry Takes Stock



On the 3rd of June 2003, the Austrian forest industry held a press conference in the Red Room. President Fritz Grillitsch, Presidential Conference of the Agricultural Chambers of

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Austria; Dr. Erich Wiesner, Head of the Austrian Forest Industry, and Hans-Michael Offner, President of the European Sawmill Industry (see photo) took stock and made themselves available to numerous journalists for the purpose of answering questions. In addition to current affairs, such as a regression in production, a positive foreign trade balance and an increase in the utilization of wood by 10% in 2002, PEFC certification was also a major topic. President Grillitsch emphasized that the numerous important functions of our domestic forests can only be secured through profitable, sustainable forestry management. In this connection, Grillitsch referred to PEFC forest certification: "Consumers have the right to know whether timber and wood products come from responsible forestry management. With the PEFC logo, it has become possible for Austrian family-owned forestry operations to remain competitive. This is particularly true regarding competition with plantation wood.

Information: Daniela Steinbach, presse@pefc.at

Mitteramskogler Co. – Innovation and Environmental Awareness

The modern sawmill Mitteramskogler (www.mitteramskogler.at) in Gaflenz was founded in 1954 and functions as a retailer and wholesaler for the entire wood-processing branch. For Hubert Mitteramskogler, company business manager since 1990, it has been the natural step to have his company PEFC-certified. "Our company has been continually growing ever since it was founded 55 years ago. All new innovations were carried out in the face of ecological considerations. The origin of our timber is therefore very significant. As the winner of the forest prize in 2003, Mitteramskogler Co. received the first award presented to a wood-processing company for innovative processing and sales strategies. Timber procurement from PEFC-certified forests guarantees that it originates from sustainably managed forests. The requirements made on the forest industry in Austria are high, however further improvements are taking place and being monitored and approved by independent auditors. Clear-cutting, such as that which took place in China, is not possible in the case of PEFC timber," explains Hubert Mitteramskogler. "Since we buy the majority of our timber from mixed farming and forestry operations, it was important to us in choosing

our certification scheme that we, as small-structured private forest owners, could have a quality label at a reasonable cost and effort. PEFC is a credible and dependable marketing instrument for us and our customers." Our standard array of woods includes maple, acacia, birch, pear, beech, ash, oak, alder, cherry, linden, Norway maple, elm and plum. Since the year 2000, the company has been the major European supplier of maple wood. Hubert Mitteramskogler: "For European forests it is important that certification and the prerequisites for it are made known to the wider public. Then consumers will be able to make an important contribution to preserving a functioning ecosystem by purchasing PEFC wood products.

Information: Mag. Doris Stiksl-Mitteramskogler, doris.stiksl@mitteramskogler.at

Domestic PEFC Beech Replaces Tropical Woods

High temperature treatment is the name of the new process developed by Mitteramskogler, which changes the characteristics of the wood in a high-tech processing complex under application of heat without using any chemical or environmentally harmful processes. The result is called "thermo-wood" (Thermoholz), and it has the following characteristics: new tropical hues – also in the grain of the wood, durability comparable to teakwood and stable dimensions Nothing but heat and water are used for the dyeing process; chemical substances are no longer required. Tropical woods, which are popular due to their dark hues, can be replaced with domestic woods. This innovative technique also increases the durability of the wood. Beech-wood, with a class V durability, is improved to class I by means of this heat treatment, which corresponds to the quality of teakwood. In the year 2000, 18 million cubic meters of tropical wood were imported to Europe with a rising tendency. Using thermo-wood from domestic, sustainably managed forests should replace tropical woods which are transported from far away and often have a dubious origin. The new thermo-wood production and the current research projects fostered by Mitteramskogler Co. are intended to make a contribution towards increasing the value of European hardwoods.

Information: www.mitteramskogler.at

Wimmerholz in Kuchl Pioneers Environmental Awareness

As the first hardwood sawmill in Salzburg, WIHO Wimmer Holz in Kuchl (www.wiho.at) sells timber from environmentally compatible forest management. WIHO exclusively purchases hardwoods from certified forests and processes these woods according to PEFC's regulations. WIHO is specialized in milling, drying and steaming domestic hardwoods. Since 2001, individual hardwood milling has been done for furniture, tool-making and flooring materials. One of the new products constitutes planks called "Ash Amoroso" made of ash heartwood. Elisabeth and Herbert Wimmer represented their company at the BWS in Salzburg at the beginning of April. Certification and logo utilization are taken for granted by WIHO. The PEFC logo and the company logo were clearly visible on their exhibition stand.

Information: Elisabeth Wimmer, prebena@wiho.at



Photo: Elisabeth and Herbert Wimmer at the BWS

Italian Delegation Visits Tyrol

The autonomous Province of Trentino was a guest in Tyrol for a day in mid-May in order to gather on-site information on PEFC regional certification. Trentino is aiming to introduce PEFC certification. Stefan Zwettler from the provincial chamber of Tyrol, the regional representative for Region 9, as well as Dietmar Hagauer, told their guests about the certification procedure. Mr. Weissbacher, who compiled the 9th regional report, explained how it was drawn up. At the Abbey of Ficht, a tour of the forest was conducted, including a review of forest utilization and conversion of stands.

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

Forestry Event in Villach

From the 21st – 23rd of May, a meeting of forest associations took place in Villach. Many presentations were held in the presence of politically prominent figures and VIPs from the forest industry. PEFC had a stand directly next to the Forestry School of Ossiach. Dietmar Hagauer was present in order to answer questions pertaining to PEFC certification and to inform those interested.

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

International

International Meeting of PEFC General Secretaries

At the beginning of May, PEFC Germany hosted the annual meeting of the PEFC's national secretaries. The great number of participants from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Italy, Portugal, France, Belgium, Germany, Australia and the USA enabled a dialogue regarding the implementation of certification in the individual countries, as well as the positive development of PEFC. In addition to technical matters, issues such as globalization and communication were also dealt with. In order to provide an insight into the German market, a discussion forum was set up including the environmental representatives of OBI, Otto Versand, Axel Springer Publishing House, and the former head of the German FSC Chamber of Economics, Alain Paul. It was possible to dispose of several misunderstandings and awaken an interest for PEFC. Basically, all forum participants agreed that no one wishes to discriminate against PEFC.

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

Italy: Marketing First Products with PEFC Logo



The first Italian wood product with a PEFC logo is now available. The certified company Margaritelli Spa manufactures

high quality parquet flooring materials, among others, and purchases its wood from France and Finland. Margaritelli Spa also actively uses the PEFC logo on its homepage.

Information: Antonio Brunori, brunori3@interfree.it, www.margaritelli.com

PEFC France Continues to Expand

Since it was founded in June 1999, PEFC France had been working on the recognition of its national certification scheme. It was successfully recognized in July 2001 by the PEFC Council. The number of state and private forest owners, who decide in favor of PEFC, is continually on the increase. On the average, it takes around 18 months in order to implement a certification scheme in a specific region. In April 2003, 13 regions were certified: Burgundy, Normandy, the Loire Valley, Brittany, Aquitania, the Rhone Valley, the Alsace, Limousine, Franche-Comté, the Central Pyrenean Mountains, and the Champagne. 10% of the public forests in France are now PEFC-certified. By the end of 2003, all of the regions should be certified according to plan. Half of the French roundwood production should be PEFC-certified in the coming year. Since March 2003, PEFC France has also been successfully working in the chain of custody. More than 80 companies have already decided in favor of PEFC.

Information: Stéphane Marchesi, pefc.france@wanadoo.fr

PEFC Presented in Canada and Panama

Canadian Paper Week

At the beginning of the year, the Canadian Paper Week was held in Montréal. PEFC was presented by the participants of the Canadian Sustainable Forestry Certification Coalition Meeting. In representation of the PEFC Council, the General Secretary of the Finnish forest certification scheme, Auvo Kaivola, explained the international perspectives of the PEFC scheme.

International Tropical Timber Organisation

The PEFC Council participated in the 34th meeting of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) in Panama City at the middle of May. At the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO), Mr. Auvo Kaivola explained the perspectives of PEFC

certification. PEFC was also represented at further ITTO events by Henri Plauche Gillon and Dr. Christian Brawenz in Malaysia and Gabon.

Information: Auvo Kaivola, office@ffcs-finland.org

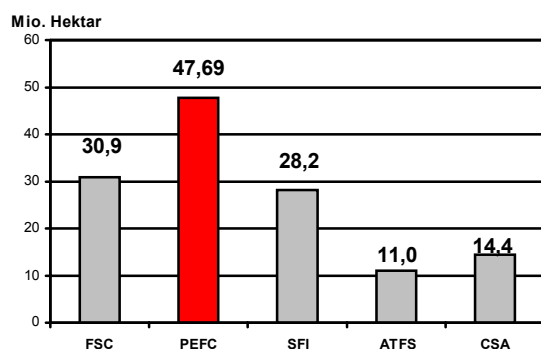
Czech Republic: First Certification Body Accredited

In excess of 1,800,000 hectares of forests have been certified in the Czech Republic. The major part constitutes large-scale public and private ownership. The main target group for regional certification are forest owners with over 50 hectares of forestlands. By means of a data base provided by the Czech Ministry of Agriculture, the attempt is being made to inform these forest owners and convince them of the merits of regional certification. Intensive preparatory work is taking place for the auditing which will be conducted soon. The Czech certification scheme has been recognized by the PEFC Council in the chain of custody. CSQ, an independent certification body, has been accredited. Those operations, which had already participated in the pilot projects in February and March, were certified first. The Czech certification process is progressing successfully

Information: Pavel Hes, kolinska@uhul.cz

Facts & Figures - July 2003

PEFC Certification Scheme – leading worldwide



FSC Forest Stewardship Council
SFI 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

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The PEFC Council – a dynamic development!

	Forest area in millions of hectares	CoC Certificates
Austria	3.92	210
Belgium	0	2
Czech Republic	1.89	13
Finland	21.91	66
France	1.74	108
Germany	6.44	238
Italy	-	2
Latvia	0.02	8
Norway	9.35	3
Sweden	2.26	32
Spain	0.09	0
Switzerland	0.06	0
UK	0.01	1
Total	approx. 47.69 Million	683

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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

PEFC Austria – Daniela Steinbach
 Alserstrasse 21/1/5
 A-1080 Vienna, Austria
 Tel: (0043-1) 402 4701-17
 Fax: (0043-1) 401 13 50
presse@pefc.at
www.pefc.at
 English: Art Translation Vienna