



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 sustainable manner according to high PEFC standards. Currently, 48 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

- PEFC at the International Wood Day in Klagenfurt
- PEFC Dynamic in the Business Run
- Thanksgiving Festival at the Heldenplatz in Vienna
- Baby Scooter with a PEFC Logo
- High-Tech Wood with an Environmental Label
- PEFC Event

International

- Germany: Prominent Forestry Operation Is PEFC-Certified
- Domestic Wood Discriminated by Greenpeace Wood Guide
- Czech Republic: Numerous Enterprises Are PEFC-Certified
- Sweden: Positive Trends
- France: Great Demand for PEFC Certification
- Italy: Certification System Is Active
- Facts and Figures

Austria

PEFC at the International Wood Day in Klagenfurt

On Saturday the 30th August 2003 sawmill owners, timber trade merchants and wood processors from Austria and abroad met at the trade fair center in Klagenfurt for an international information exchange.



Photo: Dietmar Hagauer represented PEFC Austria

PEFC Austria had a large stand at the trade meeting, and provided information to numerous interested visitors about PEFC's positive development into a world-wide leading certification scheme.

Information: Dietmar Hagauer
info@pefc.at

PEFC Dynamic in the Business Run

At the beginning of September the third Vienna Energy Business Run took place in the Ernst-Happel Stadium. Lovely weather encouraged a total of 2,230 company teams to participate in the event with three runners each. The PEFC team, comprising Franz Maier, Christian Rebernik and Dietmar Hagauer finished with a very good placing. They came in 98th of a total of 2,128 rankings. PEFC's new T-shirts were officially presented at the sports event.

Information: Daniela Steinbach
presse@pefc.at



Photo: Franz Maier, Daniela Steinbach, Dietmar Hagauer and Christian Rebernik with the newly designed PEFC T-Shirt

Thanksgiving Festival at the Heldenplatz in Vienna

This year's annual Thanksgiving Festival took place at the Heldenplatz in Vienna under the motto "Agriculture Increases Living Standards" sponsored by the Viennese and Austrian Farmers' Union (Bauernbund). The Festival was opened by Federal Minister Josef Pröll and the president of the Farmers' Union, Fritz Grillitsch. Chancellor Wolfgang Schüssel held one of the ceremonial addresses. Together with the Federal Association of Agriculture and Forestry and the AUVA, Daniela Steinbach and Dietmar Hagauer informed the numerous visitors about forests and timber in Austria. Great interest was expressed in the leading certification system for forestry and wood processing.

Information: Daniela Steinbach, presse@pefc.at



Photo: Daniela Steinbach (PEFC Austria), Stefan Schenker (HVLFF President), Kirstin Dawes (HVLFF Speaker)

Baby Scooter with a PEFC Logo



Toys made of natural wood are very popular with environmentally conscious families. In the current catalogue of the German firm H. Schneider, just such a toy is for sale as a "baby scooter." The popular toy is made of beech wood and features a PEFC logo indicating that the timber has originated from a certified, sustainable forestry operation. The company Gaspo Sportartikel und Gartenmöbel GmbH officially manufactures this scooter. The Austrian company, with its headquarters located in the Salzkammergut, exclusively utilizes domestic woods and processes spruce, pine, larch and beech wood. In addition to toys, sports articles and skis, Gaspo also sells fitness and wellness equipment. All of their products are PEFC-certified. In August 2002, Gaspo GmbH was the 100th company to be PEFC-certified. Christian Gattinger, business manager of the 100% family-owned company considers certification to have been a logical step. "Our customers demand an internationally recognized label indicating the origin of the timber. PEFC-certification has improved our market access and guarantees a sustainable supply of certified timber for the wood-processing industry.

Informationen: Mag. Christian Gattinger,
gaspo@gaspo.at

High-Tech Wood with an Environmental Label

In the scope of the Trade Fair at Ried, the company Mitteramskogler based in Gaflenz was awarded an environmental label. Josef Pröll and Josef Pühringer, head of the provincial government of Upper Austria, handed over the certificate for thermo-timber from deciduous species to Doris Stiksl-Mitteramskogler. The environmental label guidelines, which were updated in July 2003, stipulate that all the wood used in a product, including wood fiber and shavings, should have originated in sustainably managed forests. The Mitteramskogler Sawmill exclusively utilizes PEFC-certified wood for its products which carry the environmental label.

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



Doris Stiksl-Mitteramskogler receiving the certificate

PEFC Event

Under the title of "PEFC Wood from Responsible Forest Management!" PEFC Austria will be holding an informational event in cooperation with the Austrian Chamber of Commerce. Certified companies, media representatives, building material wholesalers and other interested persons can obtain information on PEFC's positive development in Austria and abroad. In addition to interesting current reports, culinary specialties will also be offered.

Thursday 20th November 2003 beginning at 2pm,

Austrian Chamber of Commerce
Rudolf Sallinger Hall
Wiedner Hauptstr. 63
1040 Vienna, Austria
Free parking available!

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www.pefc.at

International

Germany: Prominent Forestry Operation Is PEFC-Certified

The forestry operation belonging to the head of the German Forest Stewardship Council working group, Hermann Graf Hatzfeldt, has been PEFC-certified since mid-August as a member of the Silvicultural Association. The Hatzfeldt forestry enterprise, encompassing around 7,000 hectares, was the pilot operation used in testing FCS certification in Germany in 1998. The double certification is founded on the basis of the current state of the market. Several large spruce-wood sawmills in Sauerland, which have been purchasing timber from the Hatzfeldt forestry operation for years, have been requesting PEFC-certified timber since August. The forestry operation therefore additionally underwent PEFC certification without any problem. Marian Freiherr von Grafenreuth, head of PEFC Germany, welcomed the decision and stated it was a measure of success of the PEFC scheme.

Information: Dirk Teegelbekkers, info@pefc.de

Domestic Wood Discriminated by Greenpeace Wood Guide?

The dispute between the leading timber certification schemes in Germany reached a new climax with a protest by indignant forest owners in front of the Greenpeace headquarters. The reason for this was a shopping guide published by Greenpeace in April entitled "Wood & Paper 2003." It listed spruce, pine and larch as species where the consumer cannot necessarily be sure whether they have come from clear-cutting European or Russian virgin forests. At the same time, products carrying the Forest Stewardship Council quality label are recommended by it without reservation. Dirk Teegelbekkers, head of PEFC Germany, reacted promptly. He quoted Prof. Carsten Thoroe's expertise. In it the economist describes the advantages of the PEFC standards. Greenpeace is said to compare the destruction of tropical forests with sustainable forest management in Germany. Mr. Nüßlein, head of the German Forest Council, presumes that the environmental organization has apparently not yet succeeded in effectively combating environmental destruction wherever it is actually happening.

Information: Dirk Teegelbekkers, info@pefc.de

Czech Republic: Numerous Enterprises Are PEFC-Certified

In the Czech Republic, the demand for PEFC-certified timber is of great significance. An important forestry operation in Krtiny was recently certified. During the summer, several wood-processing companies also received PEFC certificates. At present 47 companies have been certified in the chain of custody according to the PEFC scheme, including Wood & Paper Inc and its most important customer Frantschach Pulp & Paper Czech Inc. PEFC brochures are now also available in the Czech language under www.pefc.cz as a pdf file.

Information: Pavel Hes, cert@uhul.cz

Sweden: Positive Trends

More than 70 sawmills have already received a chain of custody certificate. Altogether they process around 10 million m³ of timber, of which approx. 30% is PEFC-certified. The Holmen Forest Division has become a member of PEFC Sweden as the first large wood-processing company. Holmen owns around 1 million hectares of forests. PEFC Sweden is now issuing a new gazette with a focus on wood products.

Information: Folke Stenstrom, folke.stenstrom@pefc.se

France: Great Demand for PEFC Certification

One quarter of the French timber production is PEFC-certified. More and more companies are deciding in favor of PEFC. Several months ago PEFC France succeeded in raising the awareness of timber trade merchants over the course of a campaign to recognize certification. PEFC-certified wood products can now be found on the shelves of the large DIY markets. On the 21st of October 2003, PEFC will be holding an informational event in each of the regions. PEFC has begun preparations for certification in French Guyana which lies on the north coast of South America. Nine million hectares of tropical rainforests are in state ownership there.

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

Italy: Certification System Is Active

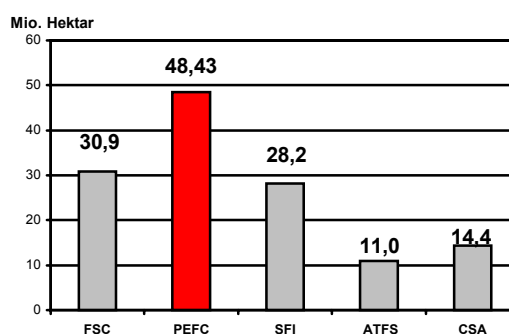
3,000 hectares of beech tree forests have been PEFC-certified in the Tuscany in the course of a pilot project. PEFC Italy is an independent project encompassing 40 members. They have recently launched a new homepage:

www.pefc.it

Information: Antonio Brunori, info@pefc.it

Facts & Figures – (Updated October 2003)

PEFC Certification Scheme – leading worldwide



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.

The PEFC Council – a dynamic development!

	Forest area in hectares	CoC Certificates
Austria	3,924,000	228
Belgium	0	5
Czech Republic	1,910,864	47
Denmark	5,926	0
Finland	21,910,000	70
France	2,257,717	173
Germany	6,509,832	307
Italy	0	2
Latvia	17,826	8
Norway	9,352,000	3
Sweden	2,306,010	35
Spain	87,898	0
Switzerland	135,752	0
UK	9,125	5
Total	48,426,952	883

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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