

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, 43,7 million hectares of forest have been certified in Europe, around 3.92 million hectares of which are located in Austria. This makes PEFC the largest forest certification scheme worldwide that functions transparently and credibly on the basis of democratic principles.

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Austria

PEFC Forcing Use of Logo

The PEFC logo is a significant marketing instrument that should also be visually communicated to the customer. It is

particularly important for certified enterprises to secure themselves a good position in the market by presenting their products with a clearly recognizable PEFC logo signaling environmental awareness. PEFC Austria therefore plans to place a special emphasis on the important topic of using the logo next year. Corresponding presentation material, which also serves to demonstrate the numerous methods of utilization, will be made available to our clients. In this connection, we already sent out a questionnaire to certified companies with our last e-mail information requesting their cooperation. We would like to thank you for your effort at this point! By answering our queries, you enabled us to handle our task optimally. The evaluation results have already been made available to you.

Information: Daniela Steinbach, presse@pefc.at

PEFC Logo Service in PEFC Office as of January

Beginning in 2003, Daniela Steinbach will be taking over the PEFC Logo Service. Contracts will be available through the PEFC office in

the future. Joining together the areas of PR and marketing with the logo service is a practical consequence which has many advantages. In the future, PEFC Austria will be able to inform the public more quickly and efficiently about the certification of business enterprises.

Information: Daniela Steinbach, presse@pefc.at

PEFC Austria Expanding Its Homepage

On the 15th of November 2002 we expanded our homepage www.pefc.at. In the menu "Certified Enterprises / Logo" you can now find out exactly which Austrian enterprises are certified. Customers, who are interested in buying certified products, can quickly contact the corresponding enterprises by using a modern but simple Q and A system. The data in the PEFC office is regularly updated at the end of each month. The realization of this project is an important step in future marketing activities.

Information: Daniela Steinbach, presse@pefc.at

International

Half of Czech Forests Are PEFC Certified

Recently a total of 1.8 million hectares of forestland has been certified according to PEFC criteria in the Czech Republic. This amounts to around 68% of the total of Czech forestlands. Around 100,000 hectares belong to private forest owners; 165,000 hectares are in communal ownership; and 1.5 million hectares are state forests which are now completely certified. The Czech Republic is an important partner of the Austrian forest industry. Annually approximately 2 million m³ of roundwood, sawn timber, chipboards and fibre boards, as well as 120,000 tons of cellulose, pulp, paper and cardboard, are traded with our neighboring country. Chain-of-custody (CoC) certification has also been successfully initiated. The first CoC certificate is likely to be issued in the first quarter of 2003.

Information: Josef Barto-Dobenin,
jbd@statkybarton.cz

Over 6.1 Million Hectares of Forests Certified in Germany

When the "Forstbetriebsgemeinschaft Forstverband Wesermünde und Bremen" joined PEFC, the total area of PEFC-certified forests surpassed 6 million hectares in Germany. PEFC is very popular with German forest owners. In Baden-Württemberg alone 1 million hectares of forests were certified at the beginning of September. "The great demand in our country is proof of the fact that PEFC is very suitable for small-scale forestry," stated Erich Bamberger, president of the Chamber of Forestry.

Information: Dirk Teegelbekkers, pefc-deutschland@t-online.de

First German Schoolbooks with PEFC Logo



At the annual trade fair of wholesalers in Cologne, Landré GmbH presented paper articles and office material, as well as the first school scribbles with a PEFC logo! This serves to document that the cellulose used in making the paper has originated in a forest which is sustainably managed and PEFC certified. Landré GmbH, which is located in Gronau/Leine, is the leading company in Europe in the manufacturing of teaching materials and other paper products for school

and office. Landré GmbH is a subsidiary of the French Group Hamelin and manufactures around 22,000 thousand tons of paper annually with its team of 200 employees.

Information: Dirk Teegelbeekers, pefc-deutschland@t-online.de

Danish Scheme Recognized

The Danish forest certification scheme has just been officially recognized by the PEFC Council. "This recognition is the result of strict inspections, and we are pleased to be able to report the positive decision," stated the chairman of PEFC Denmark, Mr. Jan Sondergaard. The five-month long auditing process involved independent, internationally established consulting agencies, as well as a public hearing process.

Information: Tanja Olsen, to@skovforeningen.dk

Estonia Promoting Family-Owned Forestry

In 1991 Estonia signed its declaration of independence and was recognized by the Soviet Union. The state restituted around 700,000 hectares of forestlands to the former owners; 817,000 hectares remained in state ownership, and around 730,000 hectares are available for purchase as "free land." Approximately 50,000 people have become forest owners through the process of restitution and sale. Whereas large foreign and domestic companies own around 100,000 hectares in total, the average forest owner manages around 11 hectares. Estonia applied for membership in PEFC. In November the Estonian PEFC organization was incorporated by the General Assembly. The work on national standards, criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management is practically finished.

Information: Ben Gunneberg, pefc@pt.lu

PEFC Family Growing: 8 New Members

Eight new members from Australia, Brazil, Chile, Estonia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia and Slovakia were accepted into the PEFC family at the end of November. The membership has thus grown from 18 to 26, and PEFC has expanded its sphere of influence to

the southern hemisphere. "News about the rapid increase of forest certification all over the world is encouraging the forest owners, as well as the timber trade, the wood processing industry and the retailers, to participate in the international certification process," declared Ben Gunneberg. Mutual cooperation and recognition of national schemes takes place under the auspices of the PEFC Council. Recognized international standards and criteria for sustainable forest management serve as the basis. This ensures that timber from each member country has to comply with comparable requirements and can be traded internationally.

Information: Heikki Hamunen, pefc@pt.lu

Italy Is Active

National certification criteria were adopted by the PEFC Council after completion of the public hearing process. The results from the five trial regions are still needed in order to complete the scheme. Furthermore, a new working group was founded for the purpose of establishing new certification standards for poplar tree plantations. Chain-of-custody certification is also making progress. Several logo license contracts are soon to be concluded. PEFC Italy has set the following goals for 2003: to conduct further forest pilot studies; complete the national scheme by March 2003; and apply to the PEFC Council for recognition.

Information: Antonio Brunori, brunori3@interfree.it

PEFC International Issues Revised Documents

Fully revised technical documents were adopted at the general assembly of the PEFC Council on 22-11-2002. These papers regulate the requirements for the PEFC certification process. The unanimous acceptance of the updated rules marks the conclusion of an evaluation procedure that started at the beginning of 2001. The result is improved documentation which has been adjusted in keeping with the current demands for developing and monitoring independently established forest certification schemes (www.pefc.org). PEFC's goal is to comply

with the demands for continual improvement of the scheme.

Information: Gabriele Herzog, info@pefc.at

Facts & Figures

PEFC – a dynamic development!

	Forest area in millions of hectares	CoC Certificates
Austria	3.92	124
Czech Republic	1.75	0
Finland	21.91	62
France	0.69	47
Germany	6.10	160
Italy	-	1
Latvia	0.02	7
Norway	9.35	3
Sweden	2.20	20
Spain	0.09	0
Switzerland	0.06	0
Total	approx. 46.10 Million	424

As of end of November 2002, www.pefc.org

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

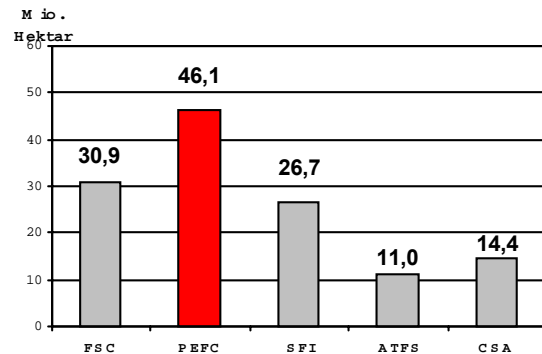
In Europe: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

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.

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.



We wish all our readers a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Imprint

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