



## NEWSLETTER

No.11/December 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. Around 50 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

- Successful PEFC Event
- Lots of Praise for Vorarlberg Forestry Management!
- STIA Holzindustrie Has PEFC Certificate
- Stora Enso Supports PEFC

### International

- PEFC Council – General Assembly in Luxembourg
- PEFC Germany Reaches the Baltic Sea
- Italy's Certification Scheme Online
- Facts and Figures

### Austria

#### Successful PEFC Event

On Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> of November a large informational event took place under the motto "PEFC-Holz mit Verantwortung" (PEFC Wood from Responsible Forestry Management!). Around 100 guests from the sectors of business, industry and politics followed PEFC's invitation to come to the Austrian Chamber of Commerce. In addition to interesting current reports, there was an

opportunity for professional discussion and information exchange.



*Photo: (from left to right) Dr. Christian Brawenz, Ben Gunneberg, Dr. Christoph Leitl, and Thomas Stemberger*

In his opening speech, Dr. Christoph Leitl underlined the global importance of Austrian timber and congratulated PEFC on its successful work. Once again the interest of industry and trade in actively promoting a sustainable forest industry has become apparent. Ben Gunneberg, General Secretary of the PEFC Council remarked on PEFC's global success. Two weeks ago, Poland was accepted as a new member, and the PEFC logo can now be found in large building construction wholesale markets.

"Ecology and business can more easily go hand in hand" with PEFC, according to Christian Gattinger from the company Gaspo. For Doris Stiksl-Mitteramskogler, the certification of her suppliers is an additional guarantee: "As a supplier of natural resources for the wood-processing industry, the philosophy of our company would be meaningless if our manufacturing material did not come from environmentally compatible production." Georg C. Niedersüß, business manager of the building construction wholesale chain IMO, asked for understanding with regard to the reluctance of his branch in dealing with certified wood in face of the generally difficult profit situation.



Photo: Mag. Georg Niedersüß

Dr. Rudolf Bretschneider of the Fessel-GfK Institute (photo below) explained the positions and the state of awareness of the Austrian population regarding the topic of forests. According to his figures, 41% of the population considers quality labels to be very important for wood products. With concern to the competency for issuing quality labels, forestry experts were given preference.



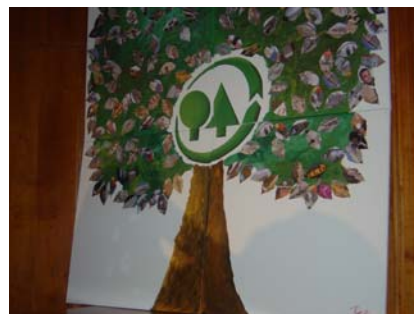
Photo: Dr. Rudolf Bretschneider

Dr. Christian Brawenz, Vice President of the PEFC Council stated expressly that the mutual recognition of all credible certification schemes would be desirable for our forests. "I am of the opinion that the forestry sector should be an example of sustainability. In keeping with our present values, we can promote this mainly by means of brilliant marketing. One of the instruments that serves this purpose is PEFC," said Gerhard Mannsberger of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management in his closing statement.

### Photo Gallery



Photo (from left to right): Dr. Rainer Eder, Mag. Doris Stiksl-Mitteramskogler, Sc DI Gerhard Mannsberger, Dr. Christian Brawenz and Mag. Christian Gattinger



PEFC Tree – Designed by Dr. Christian Brawenz



An Impression of the Audience

**Information:** Daniela Steinbach, [presse@pefc.at](mailto:presse@pefc.at)

## Lots of Praise for Vorarlberg Forestry Management!

Vorarlberg's forests have been sustainably managed for as long as memory goes back. This was independently acknowledged two years ago by means of the PEFC certificate. In the scope of this forest certification, an annual control audit recently took place in Alberschwende. Wilhelm Himmelbauer from the independent certification institute ÖQS investigated whether the PEFC goals had been achieved together with regional commissioner Stefan Zwettler. Himmelbauer seemed enthusiastic regarding Vorarlberg forestry management. The goals of sustainably utilizing the resources and maintaining the vitality and biological diversity in the Vorarlberg forest are being fulfilled well.

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## STIA Holzindustrie Has PEFC Certificate

Whoever purchases wood with a PEFC quality label promotes natural forests, careful forest management, diversity of plant and animal species, as well as the conservation of a natural habitat with a high recreational value – all reasons why we value our forests. STIA Holzindustrie buys its timber from forests which are sustainably managed, and it was therefore awarded the PEFC quality label, as well. The company, which was founded in 1972 and has its headquarters in Upper Styria, is 100% owned by the Convent of Admont. With the initial production of triple-layer plywood and its further development into triple-layer floorboards with the brand name "Admonter Naturboden – Leben mit echten Werten," the company can look back on many long years of experience. With the largest assortment of country house floorboards (18 timber species, 35 types and 48 different colors), STIA has not only managed to well establish itself in Europe, but also has a share in the overseas markets. With PEFC certification in September this year, the company's motto has been acknowledged once again. The claim "Leben mit echten Werten" (literal transl.: Living with real values) is not just an empty slogan, rather it is being exemplified by the company. Admont natural floorboards, with their oiled & waxed surfaces, are a 100% natural product, free of noxious substances, and have been manufactured from European timber which has grown in sustainably managed forests.

**Information:** Mag. Daniela Föbtleitner, [foessleitner@stia.at](mailto:foessleitner@stia.at)

[www.pefc.at](http://www.pefc.at)

## Stora Enso Supports PEFC

Stora Enso has been making a worldwide effort to purchase timber from certified forests. Due to the varying circumstances in the different regions, different certification schemes are also justified, in this company's opinion. Stora Enso supports independent certification schemes and their mutual recognition, in as far as they are credible. In Europe, Stora Enso supports FSC, as well as PEFC. Stora Enso Wood Supply Sweden, whose forests are presently certified according to FSC (Forest Stewardship Council), has decided to also apply for a PEFC certification process. Dual certification will also be introduced in Finland.

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## International

### PEFC Council – General Assembly in Luxembourg

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2003 the annual General Assembly of the PEFC Council took place in Luxembourg. The international significance of PEFC was evident by the attendance of personalities and experts from abroad. This was especially underlined by the presence of Pekka Patosaari, an important representative of a United Nations Organization which is also active in forest issues. Mr. Patosaari expressed his gratitude to PEFC for the untiring work in promoting sustainable forest management. One of the items on the agenda was the election of the board. In addition to the 10 nominated members of the Board of Directors, the president and his two deputies were elected. Through the reelection of Dr. Christian Brawenz as the 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president of the PEFC Council, Austria will continue to be represented on an international level. Reports by Finland, France and Austria, concerning the active use of the logo, were exemplary, and they documented the successful development of PEFC into the worldwide leading certification scheme. With the recognition of Poland's national organization, 27 countries are presently members of the PEFC Council.

**Information:** Dipl.-Ing. Dietmar Hagauer, [info@pefc.at](mailto:info@pefc.at)

## PEFC Germany Reaches the Baltic Sea

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is the 11<sup>th</sup> German region where forest owners are able to participate in the worldwide leading forest certification scheme. Minister of Forestry Dr. Till Backhaus announced this news at the annual press conference in the Jasnitz Forestry Office and personally signed the self-declaration which initiates the process for the certification of the state forests. With the exception of the national parks and the biosphere reserves, the entire forestland that is in state ownership, a surface area of 170,000 hectares, will be certified according to PEFC standards. The accession of the state forests has increased the PEFC-certified forestland to 6.7 million hectares or 62% of all German forestlands. Minister Dr. Till Backhaus emphasized that the state is "now on the safe side" with concern to the demand for PEFC timber. The chairman of PEFC Germany, Marian Freiherr von Gravenreuth expressed his gratitude to Minister Backhaus for his support.

**Information:** Dirk Teegelbeekers, [info@pefc.de](mailto:info@pefc.de)

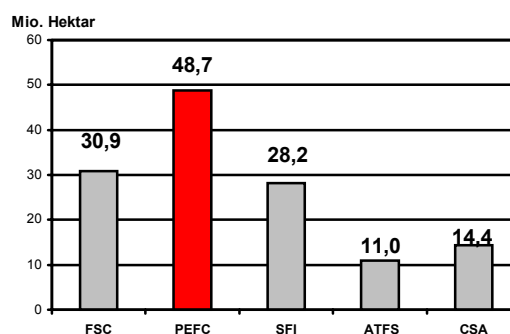
## Italy's Certification Scheme Online

For the PEFC Council, the opinions of the various representatives regarding national certification schemes are of great importance. It is therefore possible to gain an insight into the Italian scheme, which has presently applied for recognition, under [www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org). Commentaries can be sent directly to the independent experts. With up to 500,000 hectares of forestland in the coming years, the PEFC-certified area comprises a considerable share of the total forestlands. The development in Italy is particularly welcome to Austria, since business relations can now be further intensified with certified goods, as well.

**Informationen:** Ben Gunneberg, [pefc@pt.lu](mailto:pefc@pt.lu)

## Facts & Figures (Updated December 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 the PEFC Council.

### The PEFC Council – a dynamic development!

	Forest area in hectares	CoC Certificates
<b>Austria</b>	3,924,000	240
<b>Belgium</b>	0	5
<b>Czech Republic</b>	1,904,899	47
<b>Denmark</b>	7,068	0
<b>Finland</b>	21,910,000	71
<b>France</b>	2,657,472	218
<b>Germany</b>	6,544,777	318
<b>Italy</b>	0	2
<b>Latvia</b>	17,826	8
<b>Norway</b>	9,194,000	3
<b>Sweden</b>	2,306,010	35
<b>Spain</b>	87,898	1
<b>Switzerland</b>	181,411	59
<b>UK</b>	9,125	10
<b>Total</b>	48,744,486	1,017

**The national organizations of 27 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, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, 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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**We wish all of our readers a Merry Christmas and a successful financial year 2004!**