

Holzindustrie Schweighofer: WWF needs to stop making spurious accusations

Link with illegal timber trade purely a campaign – not a single accusation against Holzindustrie Schweighofer can be proven by facts.

Vienna – 19.02.2016: The WWF is frivolously and unjustifiably linking Holzindustrie Schweighofer with the issue of illegal timber trade, using the current EU Commission report on forestry laws as an opportunity to do so. In fact, Holzindustrie Schweighofer is not named even a single time in this report. (See http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/eutr_report.htm).

A frivolous approach

Also without review, the WWF is once again taking up large numbers of old accusations which were originally raised by the US-based Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA). However, the reality is that since then, a precise review and reappraisal of the contents of the EIA report has clearly found that not a single one of the accusations against Holzindustrie Schweighofer was true, and that not a single one of those accusations could be proven by the facts. "We ask WWF to cease their unjustified media campaign against our company. It is not only frivolous, but above all factually incorrect, to associate us with the issue of illegal timber trade," says Georg Erlacher from Holzindustrie Schweighofer.

Holzindustrie Schweighofer has published a comprehensive "counter-report", which is available online. It also clearly outlines the manipulation in the EIA's approach.

Finding solutions together – without misleading media campaigns

"We support all actions that are aimed at achieving sustainable forestry," says Erlacher.

"In a media campaign, WWF, EIA and other organisations spend a lot of time and energy raising their own profile. These simple but incorrect accusations help no one, least of all the timber industry itself.

We are calling to initiate collaboration with all stakeholders to develop a solution, and finally bring an end to illegal logging."

Sustainable forestry as the business model foundation

The business model employed by Holzindustrie Schweighofer is based on retaining timber as an available resource in the long term. With investments of around €800 million in Romania, 3,000 workplaces have been created there to date. This dependence on resources and our responsibility to our employees make it a matter of course for us that the company takes a leading role in sustainable and transparent forestry and timber industry.

The review of all existing quality and origin certifications demanded by NGOs and conducted by independent institutions, also shows that all timber deliveries have been consistently documented and come from controlled sources. The well-recognised FSC® certification has recently been renewed and now includes all the locations where the company processes timber across Romania, Austria and Germany. All external timber suppliers have also been integrated into the FSC® control



system in this process. (FSC® Mix Credit - QA-CoC-0073/0, FSC® Controlled Wood - QA-CW-0073/0).
Details are available here: <http://bit.ly/1owNjgX>

Further information is available at www.schweighofer-initiative.org

Holzindustrie Schweighofer

Holzindustrie Schweighofer is part of the Schweighofer Group. Its roots are in a traditional Austrian family business with more than 400 years of experience in timber processing.

Today, the Group primarily works in the timber industry but also in pulp production, forestry, bioenergy production and property.

Holzindustrie Schweighofer established the first saw mill in Romania in 2003, and now has a leading role in the European timber-processing industry, currently employing around 3,000 employees in plants in Romania: three saw mills, a wood core plywood plant and a glued laminated timber plant.

A saw mill in Germany has also been part of the group since October 2015.

Schweighofer Fiber in Hallein produces viscose pulp. Holzindustrie Schweighofer exports products to around 70 countries worldwide.

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