

Holzindustrie Schweighofer: WWF must stop the dubious prejudgement

- Holzindustrie Schweighofer is calmly facing a comprehensive checking process for the FSC® CoC labels to be awarded.
- WWF should not influence independent accreditation authorities by means of conducting unilateral media campaigns

Vienna, 7th March 2016. The Quality Austria independent certifying authority [confirmed](#) at the beginning of the year that it is complying with the comprehensive FSC® CoC (Forest Stewardship Council® Chain of Custody) standards in the case of Holzindustrie Schweighofer. As a result, Holzindustrie Schweighofer ensures that no timber of any kind will be utilized from disputed sources. All suppliers are being checked meticulously with reference to the origin of the timber.

The WWF has now filed a complaint and it would like to influence the results of an objective checking procedure by the responsible ASI accreditation authority (Accreditation Services International) with a media campaign: that indicates a [press release](#), among other things.

Numerous checks: no relevant complaints whatsoever

“We are calmly facing a new check. In the past year, several special audits were made of our company and some checks were also made by the Romanian authorities. The result: there were not any relevant complaints whatsoever.” says Mr. Georg Erlacher of Holzindustrie Schweighofer. “The facts are clear and a further check will also show that our company works sustainably and according to strict qualitative criteria. However, it is absolutely dubious whenever an NGO like the WWF seeks to influence objective decisions with media campaigns.”

Exchange of information with NGOs is sought

Discussions with various NGOs have also been sought several times within the framework of the certification. On the one hand, there was a constructive exchange of information in this case; on the other hand, some of the organizations were unable to provide any information.

Seek general solutions: no misleading media campaigns

“We support all measures that serve sustainable forestry.” stated Mr. Erlacher. “WWF and other organizations have invested a lot of time and energy in media campaigns, in order to attract attention for themselves. False allegations help nobody; least of all the forest. We are calling for a solution to be worked out together with all of the stakeholders, so that illegal logging can be finally stopped.”

Sustainable forestry as the basis of the business model

The business model of Holzindustrie Schweighofer is based on the long-term availability of timber. Almost 3,000 jobs have been created in Romania up to now by means of us making investments of about € 800,000,000. This dependence on the resources and our responsibility to the employees makes it obvious that the company is playing a leading role in sustainable and transparent forestry as well as the management of timber.

Further details about the FSC® certifying process that is being implemented by Quality Austria for Holzindustrie Schweighofer can be obtained from:

<http://www.qualityaustria.com/index.php?id=5296>

The FSC® Multi-Site Chain of Custody Certificate applies since 1st January 2016 and it has been published in the FSC® data bank with the licensing code of FSC-C128353.

Further details are offered by this link:

<http://info.fsc.org/details.php?id=a023300000YLOINAAX&type=certificate&return=certificate.php>

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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