

Vienna, 29 May 2018

Holzindustrie Schweighofer continues its open doors policy: MEP Thomas Waitz visits sawmill in Romania

- **Transparent communication as one of the company's main principles**
- **MEP Waitz (Greens) commended Holzindustrie Schweighofer's action plan for a sustainable timber industry as frontrunner for the entire industry in Romania**

At the beginning of 2017, Holzindustrie Schweighofer implemented a state of the art action plan to fight illegal logging in Romania and to support a sustainable timber industry. Overall, the company invested €1 million in strengthening the security of its supply chain. A major pillar of this action plan is the company's Timflow-system, a unique GPS-tracking system that monitors the transport routes of saw log trucks from loading point to saw mill gate. Overall, these measures by far exceed the requirements of the Romanian laws and regulations.

MEP Waitz impressed by achieved supply chain transparency

MEP Thomas Waitz (Greens) visited the Holzindustrie Schweighofer sawmill in Sebes, Romania on 24 May 2018, where he was introduced to the company's supply control measures. He was particularly impressed by the GPS system Timflow: "Even though possible monitoring gaps regarding deliveries from log depots remain, this project is a frontrunner in determining the origin of wood deliveries and ensuring that no supplies come from protected areas. The development and implementation of this security architecture serves as a positive example for the entire Romanian wood industry".

Michael Proschek-Hauptmann, responsible for compliance and sustainability at Holzindustrie Schweighofer: "For us, sustainable forestry means continuously optimizing our security architecture to protect the forests. The input of NGOs, business partners and other stakeholders was and is very important to us. Concerning deliveries from log yards, we are already carrying out comprehensive, annual on-site inspections of our suppliers. In addition, we are also working intensively on making the physical wood flows within the log yards transparent, thus supplementing the strict legal requirements and our existing control system. We are pleased that our continued efforts are being acknowledged."

Holzindustrie Schweighofer's measures for a sustainable forestry industry in Romania

- **Holzindustrie Schweighofer pays a bonus of 10 RON/m³ (2 €) for FSC-certified saw logs**
To ensure a sustainable supply chain in Romania that meets the high FSC standards, Holzindustrie Schweighofer pays its suppliers a bonus for FSC-certified logs. Since 2012, Holzindustrie Schweighofer has paid a total of 6.4m RON (about €1.4m) for this FSC-bonus.
- **GPS-tracking – transparency for the supply chain**
Holzindustrie Schweighofer has implemented a GPS tracking system in Romania (Timflow). This system surpasses all legal requirements by far. Every truck delivering Romanian saw logs to the company's saw mills is equipped with a GPS device, which proves the logs' exact loading place. The results are publicly accessible at www.timflow.com.
- **Improved stakeholder consultation**
During the past two years, Holzindustrie Schweighofer improved and intensified its dialogue with all stakeholders. Holzindustrie Schweighofer is committed to an open and transparent dialogue with NGOs and civil society. We share the aim of securing sustainability in timber processing.

- Comprehensive audit by the renowned Indufor group**

In January 2016, Holzindustrie Schweighofer subjected its purchasing processes to an in-depth analysis. The independent Finish consulting firm Indufor examined all processes as well as the supply chain and the mills in Romania. Their conclusion: Holzindustrie Schweighofer's due diligence system surpasses the regulatory requirements by far and complies with the standards laid down by the European Timber Regulation (EUTR) for placing legal wood on the European Single Market.
- Strict controls for sensitive forest areas**

Holzindustrie Schweighofer has developed a system for risk minimization based on geographical maps issued by the Romanian Association for Forest Certification which identify regions that are susceptible to unlawful logging. If Holzindustrie Schweighofer buys timber from these regions or from sites that are located in close vicinity to national parks or virgin forests, our employees act with the highest degree of sensitivity by inspecting the most important documents necessary for legal timber harvesting (the authorized document proving the harvested amount "APV", the waybill (Aviz) and the forest management plan) with maximum attention.
- Strengthened compliance team**

A rigorous due diligence process requires an adequate number of trained experts. Holzindustrie Schweighofer doubled its team for compliance and certification during the past months to 16 employees.
- Exclusion of suppliers who do not comply with Holzindustrie Schweighofer's purchasing policy**

If suppliers don't follow the company's purchasing policy, they are excluded from the supply chain.
- Holzindustrie Schweighofer does not accept timber shipments from national parks**

Holzindustrie Schweighofer implemented a "Zero Timber from National Parks"-Policy in Romania, although the legislation would allow for logging in so called national park buffer zones and in case of sanitary cuttings.
- Compliance and anti-corruption training**

For its Romanian employees, especially those working in the area of purchasing, Holzindustrie Schweighofer organizes anti-corruption and compliance trainings on a regular basis.
- Afforestation projects**

In September 2017, Holzindustrie Schweighofer, together with the Romanian Association of Forest Administrators (AFA) and University of Suceava, launched the multi-year afforestation project "Tomorrow's Forest / Pădurea de Măine". The project targets degraded forest areas of small, private owners and communities. With this large-scale project Holzindustrie Schweighofer wants to contribute to the protection and regeneration of the Romanian forests. Holzindustrie Schweighofer is investing around EUR 1 million in this project, which aims at planting around one million trees until 2024.
- Open doors policy for NGOs**

In line with its commitment towards transparent communication, Holzindustrie Schweighofer has implemented an open door policy for NGOs. Interested NGOs are invited to register with the Group's Compliance Department and to sign a standard non-disclosure agreement with regards to the technology used. Thereafter, registered NGOs can enter the company's mills at any time to make unannounced inspections and audits of the entire supply chain.
- Information on our website www.schweighofer.at:** Holzindustrie Schweighofer is committed to a transparent and open public dialogue. The website www.schweighofer.at/en/responsibility is part of the company's contribution towards this discourse and showcases its efforts to improve sustainability.

About the Schweighofer Group

The Schweighofer Group has its roots in a traditional Austrian family company with over 400 years of experience in wood processing. Today, the Group is primarily active in the wood processing industry, forest management, bioenergy production and real estate. The industry division of the Schweighofer Group operates three sawmills and two wooden panel productions in Romania and one saw mill in Germany. It takes a leading role in the European timber-processing industry, currently employing around 3,100 employees. Holzindustrie Schweighofer exports products to over 70 countries worldwide

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