



PEFCC Newsletter

PEFCC

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New Secretariat Offices

The new PEFCC Secretariat in Luxembourg is now open and functioning. Contact details can be found below.

The office staff are most grateful to you all for your patience over the initial stages of setting up.

The first few months of any new establishment are always difficult and this was no different. Our aim was to establish effective and efficient communication systems as quickly as possible as well as carrying out the usual business of the PEFC Council. We still have some work to do, but are able to devote more time to the necessary work of the PEFCC.

We have now had our first Board of Directors meeting and working group meeting here in the office as well as hosting the recent General Assembly in the Centre des Conférences in Luxembourg.

The offices are situated close to the motorway and train station with easy access to the airport, via the motorway. We look forward to seeing you in the office in the near future.

PEFCC Newsletters

Communication within PEFC is vital and it is impressive to note how vertical as well as horizontal, communication within the forest sector has radically expanded since the establishment of the PEFC Scheme. The use of email and the internet has vastly improved the speed and frequency of communication. PEFC too relies on this means of communication, so having a newsletter seems a bit old fashioned. It is however distributed electronically and is there to supplement the already frequent communications between all the PEFC members. The newsletter can also be distributed further afield to interested parties, but readers should

always refer to the official web site and members' websites for the latest and fuller information. The address is of course www.pefc.org

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 3rd General Assembly in Luxembourg recently went very well and the all-important annexes concerning the Chain of Custody and the Logo usage guides were ratified. A new working group was formed to look into the issue of non-wood products under the chairmanship of Juan Botey Serra, which will investigate this issue to establish a platform for PEFCC's policy on that matter. The establishment of this working group brings the number of working groups to four namely:



(l to r) **Henri Plauche Gillon** (Chairman),
Ben Gunneberg (General Secretary),
Berit Sanness (Technical WG Chairwoman),
Hannu Valtanen (PEFCC Vice Chairman
and Chain of Custody WG Chairman),
Sven Lundell (Mutual Recognition WG Secretary)

1) Technical Working Group

– under the chairmanship of Berit Sanness
(Email: berit.sanness@skog.no)

2) Chain of Custody Working Group

– under the chairmanship of Hannu Valtanen
(Email: hannu.valtanen@forestindustries.fi)

3) Mutual Recognition Working Group

– under the chairmanship of Ulf Osterblom
(Email: ulf.osterblom@skogsagarna.inf.se)

4) Non-Wood Products Working Group

– under the chairmanship of Juan Botey Serra
(Email: jbotey@forestal.net)

Report from Chain of Custody Working Group

(Mr Hannu Valtanen)

Chain of custody & percentage based labelling in the PEFC-scheme

The development work to create Rules for the Verification of the Chain-of-Custody (C-o-C) of Wood was launched in Segovia, Spain on the 26th of March 1999. PEFC established a C-o-C Working Group (WG) with experts from forest industries, forest owners and trade. The WG held several meetings and finalised its work in January 2000. The WG proposal was handed to the PEFC Board, which made some modifications. The rules for the Chain of Custody of Wood were unanimously adopted at the PEFC General Assembly in Luxembourg, on 25 February 2000.

A chain-of-custody certificate is a prerequisite for a company willing to use PEFC logo in marketing. C-o-C rules cover applications based on the percentage model (input-output model or minimum percentage model) and physical segregation. In the percentage model, the share of certified wood is verified by material accounting.

An essential issue turned out to be how to deal with recycled wood in calculating the share of certified wood. Three options were presented namely that: recycled wood should be treated as non-certified, neutral or certified. Recycling was considered as an integral part of sustainable development. However, PEFC provides a single-issue label, with claims on sustainable forestry only. Therefore the option "neutral" was adopted as a compromise. Neutrality means that recycled wood is excluded from the determination of certification percentage. However, PEFC does not set any upper limit to the content of recycled wood.

At the General Assembly, it was agreed, that the PEFC Council should commission a study to establish an improved platform for the issue of PEFC policy on recycled wood, before the first review of the policy on recycled wood takes place. The C-o-C WG will continue its work to further study the issue of recycled wood.

Report from Mutual Recognition Working Group

The Working Group was established throughout the period January - February 2000. Jean-Marie Barbier, Michael Lammertz, Pekka Kallio-Mannila, Ben Gunneberg and Sven Lundell are members of the group with Ulf Österblom as Chairman.

A basic strategy for Mutual Recognition (MR) has been outlined and approved by the PEFC Board of Directors. The strategy includes an open dialogue, contact and network building with other important certification systems. The scope shall be world-wide since forestry and forest industry are operating on a global market.

The PEFC Board has furthermore decided to arrange an international seminar on MR in Brussels on June 26 - 27 this year. At this seminar various interested parties from other certification systems, industry trade, ENGOs, the World Bank, EU-Commission etc will be invited to speak and/or participate.

*If you have any ideas about our strategy and the seminar on Mutual Recognition, please contact Sven Lundell.
E-Mail: sven.lundell@skogsagarna.lrf.se*

Report from Non-Wood Products Working Group

(Mr Juan Botey Serra)

Following approval of Annex 6 including the recommendations in Article. 12.2 and 13, in the last PEFC General Assembly, two Working Groups were formed: One to improve knowledge about recycled wood chaired by H. Valtanen, and another to investigate forest non-wood products in the PEFC chaired by J. Botey Serra.

The Working Group of Non-Wood Products (NWP) is in the process of being formed, at the moment. Scandinavian countries are represented by Sven Lundell (Sweden), Baltic countries by Skaidrite Albertina (Latvia), central European countries by Hans Köpp (Germany), and Mediterranean countries Italy, Portugal and Spain will also be represented. The group is open to more members and any candidate representing a national PEFC body should contact the Chairman, or General Secretary, Ben Gunneberg.

In the first informal meeting, held in Luxembourg the day after the General Assembly, the main products considered were: gum resin and other resinous products, pine cones, ornamental greenery, cork, berries and other forest fruits, and mushrooms.

*If you are interested in joining the Group or would like to know more, please contact
Snr. Juan Botey Serra,
E-Mail: jbotey@forestal.net
Fax: +34 93 412 5495*

Assessment Of The Finnish; Swedish And Norwegian Forest Certification Schemes

The Chairman, Mr Henri Plauche Gillon, announced that the official period for consultation on the first three candidate schemes wishing to be assessed by the PEFC Council was about to begin. Comments should have been sent, by 20th March, directly to the independent consultants appointed to undertake an assessment of the scheme against the requirements and rules of the PEFC Council. The PEFC Board of Directors expect to discuss the consultants reports on the schemes at their next meeting in April, after which members will be asked to vote on the schemes.

Provided the three schemes meet the requirements and are ratified by the PEFC Council, this will result in a very large area of forests being certified to the PEFC requirements. Under the Finnish Forest Certification Scheme 13.7 million hectares are already certified and it is expected that 23 Million hectares in total will be certified by the end of 2000. Forty per cent of Norway's annual timber harvest (7.5 – 8 million m³) is already certified to the Living Forests Standards and Certification Scheme (Norway). Another 43% is expected to be certified by the end of 2000 with the remaining 13% to be certified by 2001. In Sweden just over 1 million hectares have already been certified.

Assessment procedures are outlined in Annex 5 of the PEFC Technical Document. (Please see the web site for further details and the Press Release on this issue)

Imminent Applications for Assessment from France; Germany And Switzerland

PEFC Switzerland, PEFC Germany and PEFC France have all indicated that they intend submitting their schemes for formal assessment within the next few weeks: The French and German schemes were finalised on the 9th of March and the Swiss scheme (Q Label) is already operational. See report below on the German scheme

Reports From The National PEFC Governing Bodies

In this section, each of the PEFC members has the opportunity to present a brief report on the current state of play in their country. The views expressed here are the views of the members and do not necessarily reflect the views of the PEFC Council

Austria Activities on PEFC certification in Austria

At the General Assembly in Prague in November 1999 PEFC Austria outlined a rough timetable with the target of finishing the process and documents by about the middle of 2000. What has happened since then is listed below in brief:

Technical papers:

The technical papers required for a PEFC certification are almost finished. Criteria and Indicators, the certification system as well as nine identified regions for regional certification have been elaborated and discussed in a participatory process. In total four workshops have been organised to present drafts and to discuss them with all relevant groups. Papers have been published on the Internet (www.pefc.at) to ensure a participatory and transparent process. Comments have been worked in accordingly. The papers are in the final stage and will be ready soon.



Future actions:

Certification in a pilot region will start as soon as the papers are finished and submitted to PEFC. All this will happen before middle of 2000 which means that the PEFC process in Austria is on schedule.

For further details contact: [info @pefc.at](mailto:info@pefc.at)

Belgium The stage of PEFC in Belgium – February 2000

By the end of 1999, the first version of the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme had been prepared, based on the EMAS, ISO Schemes and on the Technical Document of PEFC. This scheme includes the certification of the Sustainable Forest Management as well as the certification of the Chain of Custody of wood.

This preparatory work, had been undertaken by WoodNet, the Belgian representative on the PEFC Council, representing all the members of the wood chain. It has been considered by a working group representing all the private owners (north and south of the country) and the public owners from the southern part of Belgium. The same working group has highlighted the pertinent indicators and Pan European Operational Level Guidelines within the ones set out in the PEFC technical document.

This document will be presented to two working groups (one per national language). These working groups will be



representative of all the parties interested in the forest (all the wood chain, the trade unions, the farmers trade unions, the walkers, the consumers, the ENGOs etc).

When the document is approved by the two working groups, it will be translated into English and submitted to the PEFC for assessment and approval. When this is done, we trust that an accredited certification body will confirm that the Belgian forest is managed in a sustainable way.

For more information contact:
Woodnet@skynet.be

Czech Republic The National Certification Centre

The National Certification Centre was established in 1998 based on the initiative of private and communal forests owners, state forests, entrepreneurs in forestry, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic and other organisations.



The Council of the National Certification Centre is the supreme body of the National Certification Centre consisting of 14 members representing private forest owners, state administration, entrepreneurs in forestry, trade and non-governmental organisations such as trade union and environmentalists. The Council is responsible for the conception and development of forest certification in the Czech Republic; building a certification scheme and approving certification standards.

In 1998, the National Certification Centre (NCC) started to operate a national certification scheme working at an individual level and based mostly on the Czech legislature. Up to the present, there have been about 130 certificates issued to forest owners who represent about one million hectares.

Joining the PEFC Council last year the Council of the NCC, as a PEFC National Governing Body in the Czech Republic, started a process of rebuilding the Czech national forest certification scheme which aims at full conformity with all the requirements set by the PEFC.

At present, the Certification criteria and indicators and the Technical document are in draft form and have been submitted to a broad spectrum of forestry and environmental organisations as well as the general public for comments. For that purpose the documents have been published on web pages and an Internet discussion forum is open for comments. (see address below)

The new forest certification scheme designed under the PEFC framework and using regional approach of forest certification is planned to be finished and an application to the PEFC conformity assessment sent by June of this year.

For more information contact:
National Certification Centre, Czech Republic
E-mail: cert@uhul.cz
<http://www.uhul.cz/ncs> (in Czech only)

Germany Update about PEFC Germany

In Germany, forest ownership is very small scale. In total there are about 1.3 million forest owners. Private forest holdings have an average size of 3.5 ha. Other forest certification systems were not suitable for this small-scale forest ownership. Therefore representatives of forest owners, forest and timber industry, trade unions and other interested parties supported the creation of the Pan-European Forest Certification System from the very beginning and have since worked intensively on its elaboration at an international and national level. The PEFC offers the option for regional certification, which is best-suited to the small-scale forest ownership pattern in Germany.

In the autumn of 1998, pilot schemes on regional certification were started in Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria and Thuringia under the guidance of certification experts and certification bodies.

In July 1999, PEFC Germany, the national governing body, was founded. After an intensive participatory process the certification criteria have been adopted unanimously. The "System Description" including all the regulations was adopted by PEFC Germany on 9th March 2000. The application of the German PEFC System for conformity assessment with the requirements of the PEFC has been submitted.

PEFC Germany has the broad support of different stakeholders and official bodies. Forest owner representatives from the different regions (Bundesländer) have been asked about their intention to get certified by the PEFC System. The result of the survey shows that forest owners with a total forest area of 7,753,586 ha intend to be certified by PEFC Germany. As a first step it is foreseen that the three pilot schemes are certified (March 2000).



Proposals for the future progress of PEFC certification in Germany are:

April 2000:	1.5 Million ha
Middle of 2000:	3.0 Million ha
End of 2000:	4.5 Million ha
End of 2001:	7.5 Million ha

So far the German Forestry Council, the umbrella organisation of all organisations dealing with forestry in Germany, has been in charge of the General Secretariat of the PEFC Germany. In May 2000 an independent General Secretariat will be established in Stuttgart.

*Please find further information,
please visit our website: www.dfzr.de
or contact
dfwr-rheinbach@t-online.de*

Latvia Progress from PEFC Latvia

The PEFC Latvia Council is now established. We have 18 seats, 7 – forest owners or forest managers organisations, 6 - forest operators and wood-processing groups, 1- wood trade company, 1 - forest Trade Union organisation, 2- farmers organisations, 1- state forest enterprise representative. We have 6 observers seats - 2 seats for nature protection organisations, 1 - Latvian timber exporters' Association, 1- for State forest service, 1- forest operators and wood processing company, and 1- forest managers organisation.

On 8 February 2000 a Forum was organised and all relevant interested parties were invited to attend. 39 participants attended and they were informed about PEFC and copies of the PEFC Technical Document were distributed. The document was discussed in relation to the Latvia PEFC certification scheme.

On the same day a PEFC Latvia Council meeting was held, a Board of Directors was elected (for voting at next GA of PEFC Latvia), and a time schedule for the Working Group was discussed. The budget and financing possibilities were also discussed.

On 11 February 2000 a Working Group meeting was held in Riga, and the certification standard of Latvia forests, and C-o-C requirements was discussed.

On 6 March a further Working Group meeting was held in Ogre, and topics discussed were: C-o-C Rules, Logo usage Rules, Social standards for forest workers, Forest standard for Latvia and Organisational and functional responsibility in the PEFC Latvia programme.

Since the end of 1999 seminars for forest owners groups leaders together with Swedish Forest Owners Association "Sodra" have been organised.

Recently a 2nd seminar for the basic requirements of forest certification was held, at which 20 participants took part. A similar seminar was organised in one of the forest owners groups - in Limbazi, with 25 participants. We also organized a seminar "The biological standard" for 23 leaders of forest owners groups in Ogre. The next seminar is planned in Ogre on 30 March to discuss the interim audit of C-o-C members and group leaders.

On 31.03.2000 the seminar for forest owners group leaders and forest owners will be held in Dundaga together with "Sodra" experts.

PEFC Latvia plans to develop the PEFC Latvia Scheme by the next PEFC General Assembly meeting in the autumn, and if finances can be found to prepare the Application to PEFC for endorsement of the PEFC Latvian Scheme. At the same time, we hope to go ahead with preparing the certification process - C-o-C participants will be trained, forest owners will be educated, and the leaders of groups, advisors and internal auditors will be trained for internal audit realisation.

*For more information contact:
ljc@parks.lv*

Norway Forest certification in Norway

The certification, which has taken place in Norway, is based on the Living Forests Standards and three group certification schemes as well as individual, in combination with the ISO 14001 EMS.

The very good news is that the Norwegian forest owners are about to break all previous records with regard to skills building. About 10.000 forest owners are currently participating in more than 1.000 study courses to learn about the Living Forests Standards and how to manage the Norwegian forests sustainable. The number of participants is increasing day by day.

Approximately 3 million hectares of forest have been certified so far. 1.5 million cubic metres of timber were harvested from these areas in 1999. The certificate holders are three district associations of the Norwegian Forest Owners' Federation, the State-owned Land and Forestry Company and two forest industry companies. It is expected that 90 % of the annual 7million cubic metres harvested will be certified by the end of the year.



Since 1999 four district associations within the Norwegian Forest Owners' Federation have been holders of an ISO 14001-certificate, basing their forest operations on the Living Forests Standards. But recently the Det Norske Veritas (DNV) suspended the certificate of one of the district associations. (The suspended area is not included in the figures above). The reason for the suspension was that non-conformances discovered in external audits were not corrected within the given time limit. The situation is unfortunate for the district association, but they have already taken, and are still working hard to take, necessary actions to achieve renewed validity of the certificate within May this year. However, it shows that the certification solution developed for Norway by the Living Forests project - based on third party independent auditing - is working.

For more information contact:
nsf@skog.no

Spain Spanish Forest Certification

On 26 May 1999 the Association for the Spanish Forest Certification -CEF- was officially created. Its purposes are to administer the Pan European Forest Certification System (PEFC) in Spain as well as to develop the criteria and indicators to evaluate sustainable forest management. The founder members are national associations that represent the forest owners and woodworking industries



Spain has participated from the beginning in the development of the PEFC project and CEF was one of the associations that signed the PEFC Statutes in Paris on 30 June 1999 and it has a representative in the Board of Directors.

CEF is now preparing the document for the implementation of the PEFC system in Spain and the Standards that will be applied to ensure sustainable forest management. To develop this standard a Standardization Committee including representatives of private and public forests, woodworking industries, professional associations, trade unions, consumer associations, and other members with interests in forests was created in AENOR (Spanish Association for Standardization). Several subcommittees have been created and they will present the standards so that they can be approved by consensus by the Standardization Committee.

For more information contact:
cose@lander.es

Other National Governing Bodies may be contacted at the following:

PEFC Denmark	is@skovenes-hus.dk
PEFC Finland	auvo.kaivola@tts.fi
PEFC France	foret.privee@wanadoo.fr
PEFC Ireland	bhgreg@gofree.indigo.ie
PEFC Portugal	daempresas@aimmp.pt
PEFC Sweden	sven.lundell@skogsagarna.lrf.se
PEFC Switzerland	info@wvs.ch

We welcome your comments on this first issue of the PEFC Newsletter. We hope to distribute the next edition at the end of May 2000.