



# PEFC news

## PEFC tops 52 million hectares

The number of hectares of forests certified under the PEFC mutual recognition umbrella has surpassed the 52 million hectare mark and continues to increase, while the number of Chain of Custody certificates issued is now more than 1200.



The table below summarises the hectares certified and the number of chain of custody certificates as contained in the PEFC statistics (30 January 2004) which are updated monthly on the PEFC Website: [www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org)

Certified Forest Area	Hectares Certified	No of CoC Certificates issued
Austria	3.924 000	243
Belgium	164 450	7
Czech Republic	1.911 210	59
Denmark	7 444	0
Finland	22.298 165	76
France	2.977 058	307
Germany	6.781 186	341
Italy		2
Japan		1
Latvia	25 696	13
Netherlands		2
Norway	9.149 100	5
Spain	87 898	2
Sweden	4.756 624	42
Switzerland	245 497	82
UK	9 125	22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52.337 454</b>	<b>1204</b>

Information on the member schemes and other issues relating to sustainable forest management is available from the PEFC website: [www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org)

## International Chain of Custody



At the PEFC Council General Assembly in November 2002 it was agreed that an international Chain of Custody document should be developed.

Since that time the PEFC Council has supported and continues to support the CEPI / CEI Bois project for the development of an international Chain of Custody process which started 20 months ago. However the Board of Directors has taken the view at its meeting in January 2004 that the PEFC Council should run a parallel and supporting initiative to ensure that an international chain of custody standard is ready for the General Assembly in Chile on 29th October 2004. PEFC will work intensively to help bring the two complementary processes together to achieve the desired result of one generic international chain of custody.

To this end the PEFC Council has started to develop a framework document outlining all the basic principles, scope and structure of the documentation required, which need to be agreed upon before a draft international chain of custody standard can be produced. It is envisaged that the first draft of the international chain of custody will be available for public consultation in Spring.

## Schemes submitted for assessment

### Italian Forest Certification Scheme



Independent consultants, Indufor Oy, have been appointed and are carrying out an assessment of the Italian Forest Certification scheme against the 195 requirements (see [www.pefc.org/internet/html/documentation/4\\_131\\_1\\_400.htm](http://www.pefc.org/internet/html/documentation/4_131_1_400.htm) Guidelines (GL2 / 2003) and Annex 7 of the PEFC Council Technical document) that schemes must fulfil before they can become endorsed by the PEFC Council. The assessment report prepared by Indufor Oy will form the basis for the PEFC Council's decision on formal endorsement of the Italian scheme.

### Certifor Chile Forest Certification Scheme



The Chilean Forest Certification Scheme is currently beginning its PEFC assessment process with a public consultation period, which closes 21 April 2004, and independent consultants Indufor Oy will be preparing the assessment report.

The PEFC Council now invites all those interested in the sustainable forest management to participate in the assessment process by viewing the scheme on the pefc website <http://www.pefc.org> and sending their comments directly to the consultant, by 21 April 2004.

#### For more information contact:

##### Consultants

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### Australian Forest Certification Scheme



Competitive tenders have been submitted for the assessment of the Australian Forest Standard Ltd scheme and an announcement of the independent consultants appointed to undertake the assessments is expected shortly

### Portuguese Forest Certification Scheme



The Portuguese Scheme has been submitted and we are currently awaiting tenders from independent consultants to undertake the work involved in the assessment.

## Seminar in Slovenia

On the 14<sup>th</sup> January the Slovenian Chamber for Agriculture and Forestry, hosted a seminar on Slovenian forestry certification. Several Slovenian specialists and representatives from Austria (Mr. Stemberger, President of the PEFC Austria, Mr. Jannach, Jannach GmbH), were present and Ben Gunneberg, Secretary General gave a presentation on the PEFC system.



About 100 guests including representatives of forestry enterprises, wood based industries, politicians and environmental organizations learned about PEFC and its development into the leading certification system worldwide.

The event was covered by national TV, radio and newspapers.

For many years Slovenia has managed its forests on the basis of sustainable forest management in order to maintain its biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity and vitality. However, the existing system of SFM in Slovenia is presently not internationally recognised. Without this international recognition the forest owners and the timber industry are facing considerable difficulties with exports to the EU and world markets.

The seminar included a detailed question and answer session, including issues concerning the implementation of the PEFC and the benefits that this will bring to the Slovenian forestry industry.



Slovenia's largest oak tree

## ENGO Conference

PEFC France and France Nature Environnement (FNE, the main umbrella organisation to protect the environment in France, representing over 3,000 associations), in partnership with the PEFC Council, are organising an ENGO symposium in France on May 17th and 18th, 2004 for ENGOs that support or show interest in the PEFC approach to sustainable forest management certification.

The purpose of this symposium is two-fold :

- for ENGOs to exchange views about their engagement with regards to the PEFC system,
- to investigate the possibility of creating a network of these ENGOs to facilitate the expression of their views at an international level.

## PEFC Asia Promotions Initiative

The PEFC Asia Promotions initiative opened an office in Tokyo, Japan on 1st November 2003. PEFC Asia Promotions is an entity, independent of the PEFC Council. Its members are companies specifically engaged in the PR and promotion of PEFC certification and its logo and brand in the Asian market, concentrating initially on the Japanese market.

Mr Haruyoshi Takeuchi, previously worked for the Australian Trade Commission in Tokyo, marketing Australian industrial products and services in Japan, including Australian forestry products. Prior to that he worked in the banking industry in both Japanese and overseas financial markets for over twenty years. Since starting with the PEFC Asia Promotions initiative, Haruyoshi has spent time familiarizing himself with forest operations in Australia and has had a short induction visit to Europe to introduce PEFC Asia Promotions to the PEFC Council in Luxembourg and national schemes in Austria and Finland.



PEFC Asia Promotions has contributed towards a greater awareness of the PEFC through, for example the translation of the PEFC brochures into Japanese, and has been involved in assisting stakeholders in Japan and overseas in their communications and other issues related to promoting PEFC in Japan.

The PEFC Asia Promotions initiative is currently sponsored by the National Association of Forest Industry, which represents Australia's forest industry. However, considering its nature as a PEFC promotion entity, it intends to expand its membership network both from within and outwith Japan gradually.

Your interests in our activities and participation in our membership will be greatly appreciated and welcomed.

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## PEFC Brochures available in several languages

Please note that the three PEFC Brochures are now available to download from our website ([www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org)) in the following languages English, Czech, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Japanese, Russian and Swedish

Further language versions are currently under preparation.



## Leadership Interview with Ben Gunneberg

Part 1 of the recent SCFW Leadership interview with PEFC Council Secretary General, Ben Gunneberg is now available on the PEFC Website [www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org). Part 2 can be viewed online at [www.certificationwatch.org](http://www.certificationwatch.org)



## National Secretaries Meeting

The PEFC Council will hold its national secretaries meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May 2004. It is expected that 27 national forest certification scheme secretaries from around the world will gather in Italy to exchange views and experiences and discuss issues related to the further development of PEFC.

## PEFC Council Board



left to right:

Prof Hans Köpp, Michael Clark, Hannu Valtanen (Vice Chairman), Josef Barton, Paul Wooding, Henri Plauche Gillon (Chairman), Bob Simpson, Luis Leal, Christian Brawenz (Vice Chairman), Sebastien Genest, Marian Freiherr von Gravenreuth, Ulf Österblom (*Phil Davies was not present on this occasion*)

Board members are appointed for a three-year period and one third of the Board will be eligible for re-election in any one year.

More news, including updates from the various National Governing Bodies will be included in the next issue of PEFC News, which will be issued to all interested parties in March.