

Vienna, 3 January 2017

**Schweighofer Group: Thomas Huemer to head up corporate press office from January 2017
Greater focus on transparent, clear communications**

Communications expert Thomas Huemer is to join the corporate press office of Schweighofer Group/Holzindustrie Schweighofer, a major player in Europe's wood processing industry. The appointment underlines the importance to the company of publicity that is easy to understand and accessible for both specialist and non-specialist readerships. Huemer takes over as Head of Corporate Communications from January 2017 onwards, and will be responsible for Schweighofer's publicity in Austria and around the world.

Gerald Schweighofer made the following statement: "We pleased to be appointing Thomas Huemer, a recognised expert in the communications field, as head of our press office. Our company already produces active, transparent and clear publicity, and intends to underline this commitment further still in years to come." Thomas Huemer continued: "I'm looking forward to taking up my new position at the Schweighofer Group. I have been able to get an impression of the company's domestic and international activities in recent weeks, and anticipate cooperating successfully with my colleagues in the Group's editorial departments."

Thomas Huemer is a historian and political scientist by training. Before joining Schweighofer Group/Holzindustrie Schweighofer, he was Head of Corporate Communications at Meinel Bank AG from 2009 to 2016, and press officer of oil and gas group OMV from 2001 to 2009. Prior to that, he managed the publicity of the lobbying group of architects and consulting engineers. Huemer began his career working as a research assistant and press officer for political party Liberales Forum, in the liberal grouping in the Austrian parliament.

Background information: 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 but also in dissolving pulp production, forest management, bioenergy production and real estate. The industry division of the Schweighofer Group operates three sawmills and two wooden panel productions in Romania, one saw mill in Germany and a dissolving pulp production in Austria. It takes a leading role in the European timber-processing industry, currently employing around 3,500 employees. Holzindustrie Schweighofer exports products to over 70 countries worldwide.

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