

Vienna, 15 March 2019

## **Holzindustrie Schweighofer statement on its assessment of the study "Destruction of the largest complex of primary forest in EU: the Fagaras Mts." by the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague**

In January 2019, the European Wilderness Society submitted the report "Destruction of the largest complex of primary forest in EU: the Fagaras Mts." to Holzindustrie Schweighofer's (HS) compliance office. The report describes several areas where forests are assumed to be virgin forests, but have not yet received an official nature protection status. They are not yet officially included in the national catalogue of virgin forests, but the authors claim that the state's assessment should be sped up in order to prevent losses.

HS supply chain control experts got in direct contact with the authors of the report as well as experts of the National Research and Development Institute in Forestry "Marin Dracea" in order to identify the relevant plots and to get direct information on details of the report. HS wanted to assess this information in order to identify potential risks for infringement of HS' timber sourcing policy.

According to this assessment and the experts, the forest concerned is of high ecological value and consists largely of beech stands and partly old spruce stands. The assessment and internal research also revealed that no material was shipped to HS sawmills in Sebes or Reci and the risk of receiving wood from these forests will remain low due to species and diameter restrictions as defined in HS' purchasing policy/technological restrictions.

The future nature protection status of these stands is a scientific question and assessment needs to be performed and/or coordinated by the forest guard. Until the final decision, HS will apply a precautionary approach and will strictly monitor the purchasing activities from the forest management units concerned. The information about the location of these stands is integrated into the HS due diligence system.

HS' internal report is not public, but can be requested from [michael.proschek@schweighofer.at](mailto:michael.proschek@schweighofer.at).

Since 2017, HS has been implementing an Action Plan for sustainability in the supply chain that exceeds the requirements of the Romanian legislation. According to our timber sourcing policy we aim at exclusively sourcing non-controversial material. HS therefore supports civil society and the Romanian government in its effort to fight illegal logging in the country.

For further information please contact:

Michael Proschek-Hauptmann  
Head of Compliance and Sustainability  
T: +43 1 585 68 62 - 73  
[michael.proschek@schweighofer.at](mailto:michael.proschek@schweighofer.at)