

Appeal procedure against Holzindustrie Schweighofer's PEFC certificate stopped

On 1 October 2015, Holzforschung Austria (the Austrian wood research and certification institute) notified PEFC Austria that the appeal against the Chain of Custody certificate held by Holzindustrie Schweighofer GmbH is being rejected. The Romanian authorities and the pressure groups failed to provide any evidence that the PEFC requirements are not being met.

The appeal against the certificate was brought by PEFC Austria on 6 August 2015, based on allegations made by the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) and the Romanian Ministry for Environment.

Since the allegations could not be substantiated, PEFC Austria asked the parties EIA, Neuer Weg, Nostra Silva, Bankwatch Romania, WWF Romania and the Romanian Ministry for Environment to provide evidence to allow the matter to be settled quickly. However, no information was provided to substantiate the concerns regarding compliance with the PEFC standard.

Moreover, the accreditation body (Akkreditierung Austria) investigated claims of bias and lack of impartiality and objectivity levelled against Holzforschung Austria. This investigation did not find any irregularities.

"Based on the current facts, PEFC Austria accepts Holzforschung Austria's decision to stop the appeal procedure," said PEFC Austria Chairman DI Hans Grieshofer.