

Vienna, 8 May 2017

## Holzindustrie Schweighofer takes steps to protect primary and old growth forests in Romania

- **Primary and old growth forests owned by the Schweighofer Group will be evaluated and shall be placed under long-term protection**
- **Campusel (Retezat Mountains) to become a nature conservation area**
- **Schweighofer to commission scientific study to identify further areas to be placed under protection**

Holzindustrie Schweighofer is committed to preserve primary and old growth forests in Romania. All forests owned by the Schweighofer Group are managed according to state-of-the-art sustainability standards. In a further step, these forests shall be re-evaluated and all identified natural treasures shall be placed under long-term natural protection. Virgin forests and especially valuable forest areas are of significant importance for biodiversity, serving as a refuge for many animal species such as woodpeckers and various insects. To date, Schweighofer has already ceased all economic activities in 5% of its forest areas. By re-evaluating its plots, Holzindustrie Schweighofer surpasses all legal requirements by far. The Schweighofer Group will commission the environmental evaluation to renowned experts that are recommended by the Romanian NGO Agent Green.

Frank Aigner, Managing Director of Holzindustrie Schweighofer: “We are willing to take on this responsibility that goes beyond the immediate competence of a wood processing company and a striving to set further measures in this regards. As a first step, we are offering up our forest plots in Campusel to be placed under environmental protection according to all legal provisions and to develop a ‘non-intervention zone’ in this area.” The forest area lies right in between the Retezat and Domogled-Valea Cernei national parks. The valley is located at 1,250 to 1,650 metres above sea level and serves as an important wildlife corridor, especially for bears, lynx and deer.

“With Agent Green we have found a a combative and competent sparring partner with which we have had numerous discussions about biodiversity conservation in the Romanian forests, providing for opportunities to learn from one another”, says Frank Aigner.

The Schweighofer Group owns 14,666 hectares of forest in the areas around Hunedoara, Gorj, Valcea, Prahova, Buzau, Vrancea, Neamt and Suceava. Within the next months, environmental experts will evaluate these areas and will identify the most precious forest habitats for nature conservation. Holzindustrie Schweighofer will publish the results and present the corresponding measures.

### **Additional Information:**

Holzindustrie Schweighofer is committed to fight illegal logging in Romania. Already in mid-January 2017 , the company publicly presented an action plant for a sustainable timber industry in Romania that surpasses the legal requirements by far. One of the core measures is the company’s own GPS tracking system Timflow, that monitors the transport routes of saw log trucks from the loading point to the saw mill gate.



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 3,700 employees. Holzindustrie Schweighofer exports products to over 70 countries worldwide.

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