

Vienna, 9 May 2019

Holzindustrie Schweighofer in Romania: Already 16 EUTR inspections with positive results for the company

On 24 April 2019, the meanwhile 16th inspection in accordance with the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) took place in one of Holzindustrie Schweighofer's sawmills. The result of this control, which took place in the Sebes sawmill was – like all previous controls – positive for the company.

In the course of these EUTR inspections, the authorities verify whether companies are doing everything possible to prevent the sale of unlawfully harvested timber. The aim is to ensure that only legally harvested timber is placed on the European Single Market.

For Holzindustrie Schweighofer this positive result is further confirmation of the effectiveness of the action plan for a sustainable and secure supply chain, which the company implemented in early 2017. Its measures, including the wood tracking system *Timflow* go far beyond the Romanian legal requirements and are unique in the European wood processing industry.

The previous EUTR inspections took place in the following mills: Radauti (March, August, December 2015, March 2017), Sebes (March 2016, March 2017, March 2018, 2 controls in April 2019), Comanesti (November and December 2016, March and October 2018), Reci (November 2016), Siret (March 2015, March 2018).

Holzindustrie Schweighofer's measures for a sustainable and secure wood supply chain in Romania

- **GPS-tracking – transparency for the supply chain**

Holzindustrie Schweighofer has implemented a GPS tracking system in Romania (Timflow). This system surpasses all legal requirements by far. Every truck delivering Romanian saw logs to the company's sawmills is equipped with a GPS device, which proves the logs' exact loading place. The results are public on www.timflow.com.

- **Holzindustrie Schweighofer does not accept timber from national parks**

Holzindustrie Schweighofer implemented a "Zero Timber from National Parks"-Policy in Romania, although the legislation would allow for logging in so called national park buffer zones.

- **Open doors policy for NGOs**

In line with its commitment towards transparent communication, Holzindustrie Schweighofer has implemented an open door policy for NGOs. After registering with the company's Compliance Department and signing a standard non-disclosure agreement regarding the technologies used, representatives of recognized NGOs can visit our mills unannounced. Our goal is to transparently demonstrate our efforts to ensure a secure supply chain.

- **Regular EUTR controls confirm Holzindustrie Schweighofer's due diligence system**

Between March 2015 and April 2019 Holzindustrie Schweighofer's Romanian sawmills and panel production sites were subject to 13 controls under the European Timber Regulation (EUTR). All confirmed that Holzindustrie Schweighofer's due diligence system complied with the standards laid down by the European Timber Regulation (EUTR). The EUTR is the legal framework ensuring that only legally harvested timber enters the European Union's market. The core of the 'due diligence' notion is that operators apply a risk management procedure appropriate to minimize the risk of placing illegally harvested timber, or timber products containing illegally harvested timber, on the EU market.

- **Improved stakeholder consultation**

During the past two years, Holzindustrie Schweighofer improved and intensified its dialogue with all stakeholders. Holzindustrie Schweighofer is committed to an open and transparent dialogue with NGOs and civil society. We share the aim of securing sustainability in timber processing.



Holzindustrie Schweighofer

- **Strict controls for sensitive forest areas**

Holzindustrie Schweighofer has developed a system for risk minimization based on geographical maps issued by the Romanian Association for Forest Certification which identify regions that are susceptible to unlawful logging. If Holzindustrie Schweighofer buys timber from these regions or from sites that are located in close vicinity to national parks or virgin forests, our employees act with the highest degree of sensitivity by inspecting the most important documents necessary for legal timber harvesting (the authorized document proving the harvested amount "APV", the transport document "Aviz" and the forest management plan) with maximum attention.

- **Compliance and anti-corruption training**

For its Romanian employees, especially those working in the area of purchasing, Holzindustrie Schweighofer organizes anti-corruption and compliance trainings on a regular basis.

- **Strengthened compliance team**

A rigorous due diligence process requires an adequate number of trained experts. Holzindustrie Schweighofer doubled its team for compliance and certification, to 16 employees.

- **Exclusion of suppliers who do not comply with Holzindustrie Schweighofer's purchasing policy**

If suppliers don't follow the company's purchasing policy, they are excluded from the supply chain.

- **Afforestation projects**

In September 2017, Holzindustrie Schweighofer, together with the Romanian Association of Forest Administrators (AFA) and University of Suceava, launched the multi-year afforestation project "Tomorrow's Forest / Pădurea de Mâine". The project targets degraded forest areas of small, private owners and communities. With this large-scale project Holzindustrie Schweighofer wants to contribute to the protection and regeneration of the Romanian forests. Holzindustrie Schweighofer is investing around 1 million Euros in this project, which aims at planting around one million trees until 2024. More details: www.padureademaine.ro

- **Information on our website www.schweighofer.at**

Holzindustrie Schweighofer is committed to a transparent and open public dialogue. The website www.schweighofer.at/en/responsibility.html is part of the company's contribution towards this discourse and showcases its efforts to improve sustainability.

About the 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, forest management, bioenergy production and real estate. The industry division of the Schweighofer Group operates three sawmills and two wooden panel productions in Romania and one sawmill in Germany. It takes a leading role in the European timber-processing industry, currently employing around 3,100 employees. Holzindustrie Schweighofer exports products to over 70 countries worldwide.

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