

## **Success for Holzindustrie Schweighofer: Vienna Commercial Court issues injunction against untrue allegations of Romanian environmentalists**

Vienna, 8 February 2016 - On 19 January 2016, at the request of Holzindustrie Schweighofer, the Vienna Commercial Court issued an injunction against the Romanian Association "Neuer Weg", which has now become final. The association had repeatedly spread false allegations about Holzindustrie Schweighofer on the Internet and in various mailings to media at home and abroad.

For months now, the association and its blogger Hans Hedrich – despite repeated contacts from the company – have not been prepared to refrain from further dissemination of falsehoods and defamatory allegations. Therefore Holzindustrie Schweighofer was forced to take legal steps to prevent further damage to the company and its approximately 3,000 Romanian employees.

The desire of Holzindustrie Schweighofer for an interim injunction has now been upheld in full by the competent Commercial Court of Vienna. This occurred, among other reasons, because "Neuer Weg" failed to respond to requests from the Court to prove the various assertions.

With the ruling, the association "Neuer Weg" must cease and desist from making allegations that Holzindustrie Schweighofer is involved in illegal felling, timber theft and other offenses.

All such allegations, some of which were also repeated or accepted by other environmental organizations, have been found to be untrue. This was verified, among other means, by multiple checks by independent institutions and by the company itself.

Georg Erlacher of Holzindustrie Schweighofer has this to say on the matter: "We have been confronted for months with an unfair campaign which sought, without justification, to connect our company with illegal activities in Romanian forests. Now, for the first time, the court itself has also held that these allegations are baseless. We regret that legal action was necessary in this case. In general, however, we continue to believe in the importance of dialogue and cooperation with environmental organisations, as we see sustainability in forestry as a common goal. "

### **About Holzindustrie Schweighofer**

Holzindustrie Schweighofer is part of the Schweighofer Group and has its roots in a traditional Austrian family company with over 400 years of experience in wood processing. Today, the group is mainly engaged in the timber industry, but also operates in pulp production, forestry, bioenergy and real estate.

Holzindustrie Schweighofer opened its first sawmill in Romania in 2003. Meanwhile Schweighofer is a leader in the European woodworking industry and currently employs about 3,000 people at its plants in Romania - three sawmills, a plywood factory and an edge-glued panel factory. A sawmill in Germany (Kodersdorf, Sachsen) has been part of the group since October 2015. Schweighofer Fiber in Hallein produces viscose pulp. In addition, Holzindustrie Schweighofer is also active in the Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Ukraine. Holzindustrie Schweighofer exports products to around 70 countries.

### **Questions & Contact**



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