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15th October 2002
For immediate release

Danish Forest Certification Scheme Endorsed

The Danish Forest Certification Scheme has today been endorsed by the PEFC Council. The Danish scheme has successfully completed an assessment process and joins 12 other national schemes from Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Latvia, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK.

“The endorsement of the Danish scheme was a result of a rigorous assessment process and we are delighted at today’s announcement”, states PEFC Denmark Chairman, Mr Jan Søndergaard. The five-month assessment process included among other things an independent consultants report and a public consultation period.

“This means that timber originating from woodlands certified to the Danish Forest Certification Scheme can have access to the PEFC logo, which provides assurance to purchasing customers and specifiers, that they are contributing to the promotion of sustainable forest management”, Mr Gunneberg, PEFC Council Secretary General points out.

The PEFC Council is the global umbrella for the development and the mutual recognition of forest certification schemes that have been developed to promote and demonstrate the environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of forests through independent accredited certification. It has endorsed national schemes for sustainable forest management covering over 43 million hectares of independently certified forests making PEFC the largest forest certification system in the world.

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Editors Notes

The Pan European Forest Certification (PEFC) Council, an international, non-profit, non-governmental organisation, promotes the independent third party certification, of environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of forests.

This is achieved through nationally or regionally multi stakeholder developed, independent third party forest certification schemes, based on the criteria, indicators and operational level guidelines developed by the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, an ongoing process.

In addition the PEFC Council provides a framework and umbrella for the mutual recognition of national, independent forest certification schemes so developed. PEFC is the world's largest certification system with over 43 million hectares and this area is increasing rapidly. It provides a logo for timber products from such schemes, allowing customers and the general public to make a positive choice for sustainable forest management.

Schemes already endorsed by PEFC:

Schemes Endorsed by PEFC	Hectares Certified
Austrian Forest Certification Scheme	3.924 000
Belgian Forest Certification Scheme	
Czech Forest Certification Scheme	
Danish Forest Certification Scheme	
Finnish Forest Certification Scheme	21.910 000
French Forest Certification Scheme	279 055
German Forest Certification Scheme	5.883 192
Latvian Forest Certification Scheme	12 494
Norwegian LFS Certification Scheme	9.352 000
Spanish Forest Certification Scheme	86 679
Swedish Forest Certification Scheme	2.152 297
Swiss Q Label Holz Scheme	64 572
UK Certification Scheme for SFM	
TOTAL	43.664.290