

Press Release

PEFC Sweden meets Dutch Procurement Criteria

PEFC Sweden meets the Dutch Procurement Criteria, this is the final judgement of the Dutch Timber Procurement Assessment Committee (TPAC). "A good result" says TPAC chairman Helias Udo de Haes, "this assessment provides clarity for the lion part of the certified timber on the Dutch market", as TPAC already assessed FSC International, PEFC Germany and PEFC Finland as being conform to the Dutch Procurement Criteria. "The public procurement officers can now really get to business when it comes to Green Procurement." states Udo de Haes.

Especially the ecological aspects of forest management are very well ensured: PEFC Sweden is for example one of the few systems that explicitly require that at least 5% of the production forest is set aside for conservation purposes. In practice as much as 10-15% of the PEFC forest is protected as forests with a yield under 1 m³ per ha are protected by law. However, there are also elements in the PEFC Sweden standard which are eligible for improvement, such as the participation and consultation of the indigenous Sami population.

According to Udo de Haes the assessments of certification systems also provide valuable insights for the TPAC criteria. "TPAC requires for example that the management plan is publically available. For small family foresters, whom own only a few hectares, this requirement may pose certain practical difficulties. In Sweden this issue is taken care of as forest owners are obliged to fill out a notification form that states amongst others the area to be felled, the conservation measures to be taken and the location of valuable conservation objects."

The final judgement of PEFC Belgium is expected shortly. Also, the Committee is in the process of assessing the first tropical certification system: the Malaysian MTCS. On the TPAC stakeholder forum for MTCS, which took place last month, the Committee received eight contributions. These contributions will enable the Committee to make a balanced and thorough assessment.

The assessment process of PEFC International will be finalised after PEFC has revised its criteria, which will be most likely November this year. During the kick-off meeting of the revision process last May 27th, TPAC clarified through a presentation which elements, according to TPAC, should be addressed during this process.¹

The Dutch Timber Procurement Assessment Committee (TPAC) is commissioned by the Ministry of Environment to assess timber certification systems on behalf of the Dutch Green Public Procurement Policy. The independent organisation SMK runs the TPAC secretariat.

For further information contact Ms. Myrthe Haase, TPAC secretary.
Telephone +31 (0)70 3586300, E-mail mhaase@smk.nl, Website www.tpac.smk.nl

¹ See TPAC memo "The elements of PEFC International in want of improvement, according to TPAC" http://www.tpac.smk.nl/webadmin/files/pdf/Memo%20TPAC%20for%20revision%20PEFC%20Int_.pdf