

Launch international stakeholder forum for the certificates PEFC Sweden and PEFC Belgium

On the 2nd of March the stakeholder forum opens for comment on PEFC Sweden and PEFC Belgium (www.tpac.smk.nl). The Dutch Timber Procurement Assessment Committee (TPAC) invites NGOs, timber companies and other stakeholders of sustainable forestry to share their opinion on these certification systems. The forum is an initiative of TPAC, which assesses timber certification systems for the Dutch Timber Procurement Policy.

The TPAC assessments – that are based on the Dutch procurement criteria for timber – enable the Dutch government to identify and procure timber that is produced in a sustainable way. From 2010 onwards, the Dutch government is committed to sustainable procurement.

The objective of the forum is to collect experiences and opinions on the functioning of certification systems. By sharing their knowledge on certification systems, stakeholders give TPAC the opportunity to assess certification systems more thoroughly.

TPAC also invited the system managers of the concerned certification systems to participate and provide additional information. Following the wrap-up of the forum discussion end of March 2009, TPAC will report how the comments have been taken into account in the final assessments of the certification systems in July 2009. These forum reports can be downloaded from the TPAC website. The discussion on the internet forum will be moderated by SMK, an independent Dutch foundation that also acts as the TPAC secretariat.

TPAC has finalized the assessment of the systems FSC International, PEFC Germany, PEFC Finland in November 2008. The final assessments report and the results of the stakeholder forum can be found on the TPAC webpage.

TPAC invites managers of timber certification systems to apply for assessment. Once new certification systems will be discussed at the forum, stakeholders will be notified.

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