

PRESS RELEASE TPAC

11 June 2010

TPAC judges that PEFC timber on the Dutch market meets the Dutch Procurement Criteria.

From 2008 onwards the Timber Procurement Assessment Committee (TPAC) assessed all relevant procedures and standards of PEFC International. In addition, TPAC assessed national PEFC schemes which are relevant for the Dutch market. The PEFC systems of Finland, Sweden, Germany, Belgium and Austria represent 90% of the PEFC timber supplied on the Dutch market and all have been assessed conform to the Dutch Procurement criteria. The Minister has now decided to accept the PEFC certificate for the Dutch Procurement Policy. Awaiting the consideration of the objection which TPAC received on MTCS, the Minister decided that timber from the Malaysian MTCS is excluded from the Dutch procurement policy. TPAC will carefully examine this objection and will most likely reach a decision in October 2010.

Next Step

In the upcoming period, the Committee will further investigate cases which were brought forward to the TPAC stakeholder forum. These cases concern two PEFC systems which are of little relevance to the Dutch market. However, the market may change and therefore research is important. This research will also give insight in the functioning of PEFC as a worldwide umbrella-system.

TPAC Chairman Udo de Haes is glad that clarity is now attained for suppliers and government procurement officers. He also stresses the positive spin-off of the procurement policy by the Dutch government. Udo de Haes: "In 2008 PEFC International did not meet a number of essential social criteria. PEFC focussed its review process on these criteria, resulting in the recent adaptation of criteria which require that forest management takes place only after extensive consultation and consent of indigenous peoples. These criteria will apply to all 220 million hectares PEFC forest worldwide."

Reports

The Committee will publish a public summary report and a forum report on the assessment of PEFC International. The latter includes a detailed description of the PEFC cases and other comments TPAC received on its stakeholder forum. The forum report also contains information on how these comments have been taken into account in the final judgement. The reports can be found on the TPAC website.

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