

Italian Forest Certification System Seeks Re-Endorsement by PEFC

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Stakeholders from around the world are encouraged to comment on the revised Italian forest certification system. The global public consultation, which will last until 5th May 2010, is an important part of the assessment process of national systems seeking recognition by PEFC at international level. The current endorsement will expire on 18th October 2010.

"The revised Italian forest management standard is the product of the collaborative efforts of more than thirty specialists from all sectors of society that participated in the standard setting forum," said Antonio Brunori, Secretary General of PEFC Italy. "The year-long process, which also benefited from a public consultation at national level, resulted in an increase of prescriptive elements and additional normative indicators that forest managers are required to comply with in order to achieve PEFC certification."

Forest stakeholders in Italy value PEFC certification as an important tool to demonstrate sustainable forest management, Mr. Brunori explained. "About 95% of the total certified forest area in Italy is certified to PEFC. The major challenge is, however, that only 8% of all forests in Italy are certified," he continued. "Consequently, an important aspect of PEFC certification is that it helps raising awareness about the importance of sustainable forest management in Italian society."

Italy is home to about 10 million hectares of forest, and area that has grown by almost 20% between 1985 and 2005. At the same time, Italy is Europe's largest wood importer and the 4th largest wood importer globally.

"Given the significant role that Italy plays in the global timber trade, our role is two-fold: We need to expand the forest area in Italy that is certified as being sustainably managed, and we need to encourage Italians to demand PEFC certification whenever the purchase wood or wood-based products such as paper and packaging", Mr. Brunori emphasized.

The Italian certification system was originally endorsed by PEFC in October 2004, with the current endorsement expiring on 18 October 2010.

Please submit your comments directly to the assessor, [Michael Berger](#), Sustain Consulting, by 5th May 2010.

Facts and figures

- Italy has around 10% of the world furniture market.
- Italy is the biggest exporter of wood furnishings in Europe, and the second largest exporter in the world of furniture after China.
- Italy is the largest world-wide importer of wood for burning, with around 28% of worldwide imports, for a total value in 2006-2008 of \$196.6 million USD.
- Italy is the fourth largest world-wide importer of wood pulp and cellulose, with a total value of imports of 7,975.1 USD (7% of worldwide imports in the period 2003-2007).

Further Information

- [Revised Scheme Documentation](#) (2 MB)
- Contact [Michael Berger](#), Sustain Consulting
- Contact [PEFC Italy](#)



