

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TBT/Notif.93.123

22 April 1993

Special Distribution

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.4.

1. Party to Agreement notifying: <u>AUSTRIA</u>
2. Agency responsible: Federal Ministry for Environment, Youth and Family
3. Notified under Article 2.5.2 [], 2.6.1 [], 7.3.2 [], 7.4.1 [X], other:
4. Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading): Timber and timber products from sustainable exploitation
5. Title and number of pages of the notified document: Federal Law for the Creation of a Quality Mark for Timber and Timber Products from Sustainable Exploitation (2 pages)
6. Description of content: Establishment of a <u>voluntary</u> quality labelling according to the guidelines prepared by the respective international organizations, laid down in UNCTAD document TD/TIMBER.2/R.1 (25 February 1993). The <u>mandatory</u> labelling of tropical timber and timber products has been abolished. Anyone able to prove that all timber he puts on to the market comes exclusively from sustainable exploitation, may apply for authorization to use the timber quality mark awarded by the Ministry for Environment, Youth and Family. Eligibility will be checked every three years by an advisory body.
7. Objective and rationale: Environmental protection by promoting the conservation, management and sustainable development of all types of timber producing forests, the so-called "green lungs" of our planet.
8. Relevant documents: Austrian Federal Law Gazette 309/1992 Austrian Federal Law Gazette 228/1993
9. Proposed date of adoption and entry into force: 1 April 1993
10. Final date for comments:
11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address of other body: