



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Bene is the first company in Austria to be awarded ISO 38200 certification**

**Waidhofen an der Ybbs, 20 February 2019:** Bene, one of the leading companies of the European office furniture industry, is the first Austrian company to achieve certification under ISO 38200, the new standard recognising a monitored chain of custody for wood and wood-based products, cork and lignified materials.

In recent years there has been much discussion throughout Europe about the certification of sustainable forestry and the need to confirm that wood materials have come from sustainable and guaranteed legal sources. For the wood processing industry it is of prime importance to ensure the traceability of their wood or wood-based products, and to be able to prove the origin and legality of these raw materials. This is also particularly relevant for the international office furniture industry.

As one of the leading companies in the sector, Bene recognises its responsibilities in this area. On 17 December 2018 Bene became the first Austrian company to be certified according to ISO 38200. This new, globally recognised international standard sets strict requirements for a monitored chain of custody (CoC) for wood and wood-based products, cork and lignified materials, and their products, ensuring the traceability and legality of the wood used and end-to-end monitoring of the upstream supply chain.

*"Thinking and acting sustainably comes naturally to Bene: the three pillars of economic, ecological and social responsibility are central aspects of the company's corporate strategy. This certification gives Bene more flexibility on the purchasing side and for our customers it provides even more certainty that their office furnishings are made using only legal and sustainable wood,"* said Michael Fried, Bene's Executive Board Member for Sales, Marketing and Innovation, speaking at the presentation of the certificate on 18 February 2019. *"Bene was our pilot customer for the ISO 38200, so the award of this certificate also has a special significance for us,"* adds the industry specialist at Quality Austria, Axel Dick, Executive Vice President Business Development Environment and Energy, CSR.

#### **About Bene**

The international office expert is a specialist in the design and furnishing of modern office and working environments. Bene defines the office as a living space, and its concepts, products and services turn this philosophy into a reality. The Bene Group is a globally active company with its head office and production facilities in Waidhofen an der Ybbs, Austria. Development, design, and production, along with consulting and sales, are thereby united under one Austrian roof. As a significant market player in Europe, Bene stands for innovative concepts, inspiring offices, and high-quality design. Bene develops and produces customised solutions for businesses of all sizes – from one-person companies to SMEs and global corporations.

[www.bene.com](http://www.bene.com)

#### **About Quality Austria**

Quality Austria - Trainings, Zertifizierungs und Begutachtungs GmbH is the leading provider of system and product certification, verification and validation, assessment, training and certification of persons, and the Austrian Quality Seal. These services are based on internationally recognised accreditations from the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs, and on other international regulatory approvals.

[www.qualityaustria.com](http://www.qualityaustria.com)

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