

Focus on Bioenergy: Windhager CEO Stefan Gubi talks with top representatives in Brussels

On June 6th, Thierry Breton, EU Commissioner for the Internal Market, hosted seven high-ranking representatives from the bioenergy industry in Brussels. Among the participants was Stefan Gubi, CEO of the Windhager Group. During the meeting, Gubi emphasized the importance of clear political messages to avoid customer confusion, maintain business momentum, and secure jobs. The meaningful coexistence of biomass and heat pumps was particularly crucial at this time.

Brussels/Seekirchen: Bioenergy Europe, an influential trade association representing the interests of national biomass associations at the European level, organized the delegation to Brussels. The main goal was to accelerate the integration of bioenergy technologies into the Net-Zero Industrial Law. Additionally, discussions were held with Kitti Nyitrai and Biljana Kulisic from the Directorate-General for EU Energy Policy to address the obstacles in providing secure and sustainable energy at competitive prices.

EU Promises Increased Support EU Commissioner

Thierry Breton showed particular interest in Windhager's hybrid strategy and pledged his support at the EU level. Windhager's hybrid solutions (biomass + heat pump) offer customers exceptionally future-proof heating solutions and independence from electricity prices. By cleverly combining biomass and a heat pump, the strengths of both technologies are optimally utilized to ensure highly efficient heat generation.

Windhager has a clear position

With its outstanding technology and innovation, Windhager is considered the first manufacturer to focus entirely on biomass technology and thus exit the oil boiler business. Regarding renewable energy, Stefan Gubi has a clear opinion: "For over 100 years, Windhager has seen it as its duty to provide the ideal heating solution for every home - durable, cost-effective, and comfortable. In order to continue these success stories for future generations and achieve the climate target by 2050, all renewable energy sources are now needed - especially biomass." Only in this way is a certain resilience of the energy system possible.

A Clear Vision Requires Clear Messages

The EU also committed to focusing on confusing communication and the resulting consumer uncertainty. With the new BioWIN Ultegra pellet boiler, Windhager introduced a pacesetter for the energy transition to the market in spring, following the motto "Plug & Heat." To accelerate the climate transition with the help of this innovation potential, responsible policies are now needed, according to Gubi, to create a clear framework.

Innovative "Made in Austria" for Europe's Independence

"The backbone of a strong Europe has always been small and medium-sized enterprises," emphasizes Gubi. Windhager places the highest priority on independence from Russia and Asia. With a self-production depth of over 75 percent, Windhager stands for genuine "Made in Austria" and manufactures innovative wood, pellet, or wood chip heating systems that are at the limit of measurability for emissions. In addition to long-lasting premium quality, the company relies on a dense customer service network that ensures fast and professional support. "Because in the end, it is up to the boiler manufacturers to ensure satisfied customers with their performance and professionalism. Predictability and long-term

sustainable strategies, instead of short-term goals, are necessary conditions that need to be created by politics,” emphasizes Gubi.

About Windhager: The Specialist in Renewable Energy

Founded in 1921 in Seekirchen near Salzburg, Windhager is now one of Austria's leading boiler manufacturers for heating systems, with over 650 employees, three foreign branches, and an international partner network. The company's in-house research and development department, located in the regional headquarters, focuses on the development of highly efficient heating solutions for renewable energy.

Windhager places a significant emphasis on heat pumps as well as the fuels pellets, wood chips, and firewood. Accordingly, the Windhager product range includes heat pumps, high-quality log wood gasifiers, comfortable pellet heating solutions, and innovative suction system wood chip gasifiers. Hybrid solutions, gas condensing boilers, and a wide range of heating accessories complement the boiler program. Currently, production takes place exclusively at the company headquarters in Seekirchen near Salzburg, with production expanding to Pinsdorf near Gmunden starting in 2024. The export share accounts for approximately 60%. Key export countries include France, Italy, Slovenia, Poland, Belgium, Spain, and England.

www.windhager.com

facebook.com/windhagerdieheizung

Kontakt:

Windhager Zentralheizung GmbH

Anton-Windhager-Str. 20

5201 Seekirchen

info@at.windhager.com

 **WINDHAGER ZENTRALHEIZUNG GMBH**

Anton-Windhager-Straße 20 | A-5201 Seekirchen am Wallersee | T +43 6212 2341-0 | info@at.windhager.com | windhager.com
DVR 2112063 | UID ATU 61870345 | UID DE 277335976 | Handelsgericht Salzburg FN 266236z | ARA 9500
Bankverb.: Raiffeisenlandesbank OÖ | IBAN AT16 3400 0000 0266 8838 | BIC RZ00AT2L

Tel: +43 6212/2341-0



Caption: Thierry Breton and Stefan Gubi

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Anton-Windhager-Straße 20 | A-5201 Seekirchen am Wallersee | T +43 6212 2341-0 | info@at.windhager.com | windhager.com
DVR 2112063 | UID ATU 61870345 | UID DE 277335976 | Handelsgericht Salzburg FN 266236z | ARA 9500
Bankverb.: Raiffeisenlandesbank OÖ | IBAN AT16 3400 0000 0266 8838 | BIC RZ00AT2L

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Caption: Stefan Gubi at the European Parliament in Brussels.

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