

For immediate release

Thuringia's Minister for Education, Science, and Culture Christian Tischner (CDU) Visits Koehler Paper's Greiz Mill

- **Discussion regarding the attractiveness of the mill for qualified skilled workers**
- **Dual-study programs: a successful model to follow**
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Oberkirch, Germany, 02/13/2025 - Thuringia's Minister for Education, Science, and Culture Christian Tischner recently visited Koehler Paper's mill in Greiz together with Alexander Schulze, the mayor of Greiz. The corresponding talk focused on the local and national challenges of recruiting skilled workers.

In view of demographic trends, securing the supply of skilled workers is one of the major challenges of the coming decades. There is already a shortage of skilled workers in many sectors, including the paper industry. Political support is needed to reduce the gap.

Dual-study programs: a successful model to follow

Working at the Koehler Group means being part of the company's sustainable business strategy: Koehler employees work on shaping the future in a meaningful way – not only in terms of sustainable paper and energy production, but also when it comes to the environment and society.

Within this context, vocational training is a great way for young people to open up good prospects for transitioning to their professional life. "At our Greiz mill, Koehler Paper provides young people with the chance to build unrivalled professional qualifications that are perfect for real-life jobs while also offering them a large variety of additional development opportunities," said Dr. Stefan Karrer, COO Koehler Group, during his talk with the government representatives.

A role model for Thuringia's businesses: Koehler Paper's Greiz mill

During a tour of the mill, together with Udo Hollbach, Managing Director of Koehler Paper's Greiz mill, Christian Tischner was able to get an impression of how the regional employer does things. The minister was absolutely fascinated by the company's sustainable business policies: "We need companies with the kind of commitment and willingness to take bold action that the Koehler Group has. Needless to say, I'm delighted to see how the group and its site here in Greiz are helping us truly establish Thuringia as a sustainable business destination."



Figure: Thuringia's Minister for Education, Science, and Culture Christian Tischner visited Koehler Paper's Greiz mill together with Alexander Schulze, the mayor of the town of Greiz.

From left to right: Claus-Tilo Thoß (Managing Director of Vogtland Radio), Christian Tischner (Thuringia's Minister of Education, Science and Culture), Udo Hollbach (Managing Director of Koehler Paper Greiz), Alexander Schulze (Mayor of Greiz), Lars-Helge Peters (Plant Manager of Koehler Paper Greiz), Mario Suckert (State Secretary in the Thuringian Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Rural Areas), Edgar Prasad (State Secretary's advisor) and Dr. Stefan Karrer (COO of the Koehler Group).

Source: Koehler Group



2030 Sustainability Strategy

With investments in training and advanced training programs, the Koehler Group is proactively promoting diversity and helping achieve sustainable development goals in the area of "People, the Key to Success."

About the Koehler Group

The Koehler Group was founded in 1807 and has been family-run from that moment to the present day. The group's core business activity lies in the development and production of high-quality specialty paper. This includes—among others—thermal paper, playing card board, beverage coasters, fine paper, carbonless paper, recycled paper, decor paper, wood pulp board, sublimation paper, and also innovative specialty paper for the packaging industry. In Germany, the Koehler Group employs around 2,500 people across five production sites, with three additional sites in the USA. The group operates internationally, with an export share of around 70% in 2023, and brings in an annual turnover of around 1.1 billion euros.

As an energy-intensive company, Koehler invests in renewable energy projects such as wind energy, hydropower, photovoltaics, and biomass with its Koehler Renewable Energy business unit. The Koehler Group has set a goal of producing more energy from renewable sources by 2030 than is required for its paper production operations.

With its Koehler Innovative Solutions division, the Koehler Group is collaborating with start-ups to promote innovations in the core business segments “paper” and “renewable energy”.

Find more information at: <https://www.koehler.com>

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