

Distr.
GENERAL

TIM/EFC/SEM.1/2004/R.1/Summary
16 July 2004

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Timber Committee

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
European Forestry Commission



Joint UNECE/FAO Workshop on Illegal Logging
and Trade of Illegally-Derived Forest Products
in the UNECE Region

Geneva, Switzerland, 16-17 September 2004

THE NATIONAL REPORT ON ILLEGAL LOGGING

(Prepared by Dr. Maxhun Dida, General Directorate for Forestry and Pasture, Albania)

Summary

The long period of transition in Albania from a centralized to a market-based economy has presented the forest sector with many challenges. One of the main problems for the Albanian Forest Service has been the prevention of illegal logging in forests. There are many causes of illegal logging. Commercial interests, widespread poverty in the rural areas, a lack of ownership and involvement of civic society in forest management and the lack of an adequate legal framework have all contributed to the problem. Since the year 2000 an inter-ministerial Task Force has been working to coordinate efforts by a number of government agencies to counteract illegal logging. This has included strengthening penalties and sanctions against those responsible for illegal logging, legal amendments requiring licensing of wood processing units and the control of their supply chains from production right through to export. The Government has approved a strategy for the development of the forest sector, which has included separating the management and control functions within the forest administration.

GE.04-22564