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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 the Federal Forestry Agency, Russian Federation)

### Summary

A standard definition is needed for the term “illegal logging” if valid comparisons are to be made among the estimates of the scale of the problem supplied by the various institutions in different countries. Within the lands of the Russian Forest Fund there have been few cases of logging without appropriate permission. More common are false declarations of volumes, species, values or origins of harvested wood. Illegal logging in prohibited or protected areas, such as national parks, is very rare. The Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation and the Federal Forestry Agency organize permanent control of forest use process at all stages, starting from planning of final felling operations and up to inspections of cutting areas after felling. The Federal Tax Service is responsible for all taxes and fees and the Federal Customs Service controls legal aspects of trade at border crossings. The Ministry of Interior (Police) also participates in actions against illegal loggings. The volume of illegally logged wood in the Russian Federation in 2003, based on the results of sample surveys and reports of local inspectors, was less than 1%. The Ministry of Natural Resources has initiated organization of an International Conference “Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) in Northern Eurasia”, which will take place in Russia in the summer of 2005. A preliminary meeting of potential donors to this conference was held in Moscow on 18 May 2004. Among those taking part in this meeting were representatives from foreign governmental and other agencies, diplomatic missions stationed in Moscow and the European Commission.