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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 Mr. Paolo Vicentini, Ministero delle Politiche Agricole e Forestali, Italy)

Summary

The discrimination between legal and illegal logging reflects the political and administrative situations of the specific timber-producing countries. When they carry out development programmes or uses not coherent with the criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management, consumer countries have to face the problem making reference to the main international institutions and forums engaged in the field (UNFF and CPF, FAO, UNECE, ILO, G8, MCPFE, UE, etc.). Meanwhile, they can look for possible agreements at bilateral or, preferably, multilateral level. In Italy, which is one of the main timber-importing countries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Direction General for the CoopmMinistries, the associations of timber and paper industries and the major environmental associations, to coordinate the activities in favour of the SFM, the participation in the EU Action Plan for FLEGT, the analogous plans for Central Africa and East Asia, etc. On the other hand, the Ministry of Agricultural and Forest Policies – National Forest Service – and the Ministry of Environment and Land Protection – Department of Nature Protection – are developing initiatives to improve CITES controls, to make agreements with the timber-producing countries to fight illegal logging, to extend the number of species utilized and to identify timber products according to EU rules and directive. Finally, it is worth noting that the new Italian forest law, adopted in May 2001, provides the foundation, within the National Council for Economics and Labour (CNEL), of the National Observatory for the marketing of forest products and services, entrusted with the task of promoting activities related to the marketing of forest products and services according to the methods of SFM.