



Funded by the European Union

TAIEX EPPA

2nd Regional Workshop on best practice on managing illegal timber

organised in co-operation with

EU Environment Partnership Programme for Accession (EPPA)

3 – 4 March 2021

Venue:

Online

Beneficiaries:

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo^{*}, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey

EPPA 80542

^{*} This designation is without prejudice to position on status, and is in line with the UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Organised and funded by the
Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument
of the European Commission



Aim of the Workshop:

The aim of the Workshop is to provide advice and guidance to competent authorities and market operators, from the Western Balkans and Turkey, who export wood and/or wood products to the EU according to the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) requirements. The Workshop will also contribute to strengthening and establishing closer inter-institutional relations between Competent Authorities (CAs) responsible for implementation of the EUTR, to ensure mutual economic and environmental benefits for the EU and the Western Balkans and Turkey region.

EU MS Speakers

- Mr. Ondrej **Koporec**, Ministry of Interior, Presidium of the Police Force, Slovak Republic
- Mr. Gabor **Lovasi**, Hungarian CA: National Food Chain Safety Office
- Ms. Elisabetta **Morgante**, Italian CA: Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies
- Mr. Rosen **Raichev**, Bulgarian CA: Executive Forest Agency
- MSc. Robert **Rezonja**, Slovenian CA: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
- Mr. Kiril **Tashev**, Bulgarian CA: Executive Forest Agency
- Ms. Stefanie **Wieser**, Austrian CA: Federal Forest Office

Other Speakers:

- Ms. Alexandra **Alexandrova**, Bulgarian MO: Preferred by Nature (formerly NEPCon)
 - Mr. Aleksandar **Bardarov**, FCS certification expert
 - Ms. Bogdan **Buliga**, Preferred by Nature (formerly NEPCon)
 - Mr. Mihail **Dimovski**, EPPA Team Leader
 - MSc. Franc **Ferlin**, EPPA SNKE for Forestry - Illegal logging
 - Mr. Angelo **Mariano**, Italian EUTR Monitoring organizations (MO): Consorzio Servizi Legno-Sughero (Conlegno).
 - Ms. Valentina **Scioneri**, Research Center on Security and Crime, Italy
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Day 1: Wednesday, 3 March 2021

Chair Mr. Mihail **Dimovski** & Facilitator: MSc. Franc **Ferlin**

09:00 – 09:30	Event starts/ technical introduction/ solving participants' issues 09:20 – short speech how the webinar works, how it is structured, how to communicate
09:30 – 09:40	Introduction to the agenda and workshop objective Mr. Mihail Dimovski & MSc. Franc Ferlin ,
Topic 1:	
Systems and/or programs of EUTR controls by CAs from EU countries, with particular attention to operators placing the wood and wood products from the Western Balkans countries and Turkey on the EU market, and experiences in the controls, with special focus on problems in assuring due diligence requirements.	
09:40 - 10:10	Examples and experiences of Slovenian CA Mr. Rober Rezonja
10:10 - 10:40	Examples and experiences of Austrian CA MS. Stefanie Wieser
10:40 - 11:10	Examples and experiences of Hungarian CA MS. Gabor Lovasi
11:10 – 11:20	<i>Break</i>
11:20 – 11:50	Examples and experiences of Italian CA Ms. Elisabetta Morgante
11:50 - 12:20	Examples and ex experiences of Bulgarian CA Mr. Rosen Raichev
12:20 – 12:50	Benefits of the Exporter's Declaration – Hungarian example of solving a problem Mr. Gabor Lovasi
12:50 – 13.00	Discussion on the topic
13:00 - 13:45	<i>Lunch Break</i>
Topic 2:	
Experiences in criminal investigations of operators suspected of placing illegal wood and wood products on the EU market, with particular attention to the Western Balkans countries and Turkey	
13:45 – 14:15	Experiences of Research Center on Security and Crime, Italy Ms. Valentina Scioneri
14:15- 14:45	Experience of the Slovak Police Force in the Forestry Crime Mr. Ondrej Koporec
14:45 - 15:00	Discussion on the topic

Topic 3:

Status and needs for EUTR approximation of forest legislation of the Western Balkans countries (examples of Serbia, Montenegro and North Macedonia), with special attention to assuring due diligence by forest operators when placing the wood on the market for the first time

MSc. Franc Ferlin

15:00 – 15:15	Discussion on the topic
15:15	Closing remarks Day 1

Day 2: Thursday, 4 March 2021

Chair Mr. Mihail **Dimovski** & Facilitator: MSc. Franc **Ferlin**

08:30 – 09:00	Event starts/ technical introduction/ solving participants' issues 8:50 – short speech how the webinar works, how it is structured, how to
09:00 – 09:05	Introduction to day 2 Mr. Mihail Dimovski & MSc. Franc Ferlin ,
Topic 4:	
Examples of due diligence systems (DDS) of EUTR monitoring organisations (MOs) and experiences in implementation of their DDS with particular attention to importers of wood and wood products from the Western Balkans countries and Turkey. Special focus will be put on problems in assuring due diligence and “negligible risk” within it.	
09:05 - 09:35	Examples and experiences of Italian MO: Conlegno Mr. Angelo Mariano
09:35 - 10:05	Examples and experiences of Bulgarian MO: Mr. Bogdan Buliga
10:05- 10:20	Discussion on the topic
10:20 – 10:40	<i>Break</i>
Topic 5:	
Example of Chain of Custody (CoC) certification standards for assuring legality and due diligence when placing wood products on the market, and experiences in their implementation in the Western Balkans countries (with special focus on problems in assuring due diligence). Differences in legality check and implementing due diligence between the certification and the EUTR auditing approaches? Having in mind that only certification is not enough to satisfy the EUTR requirements, how is the CoC certification considered in the context of assuring due diligence according to EUTR?	
10:40 – 11:10	Implementation of forest certification systems (FCS) and certified units. National standards and schemes for their implementation. Examples and practice. Publicity and accessibility for forest management in accordance with EUTR. Mr. Kiril Tashev
11:10 – 11:40	Examples and experiences of a FCS Certification Body (CB) and EUTR MO services Mr. Aleksander Bardarov
11:40 - 12:10	Examples and experiences of a FSC CB and EUTR MO: Ms. Alexandra Alexandrova
12:10 - 12:20	Questions & Answers
12:20 - 12:50	Summary findings, conclusions and recommendations based on the presentations followed by final discussion MSc. Franc Ferlin
12:50	Closure of the workshop

More information on TAIEX:

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<http://ec.europa.eu/taix/experts>



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