

**UNECE/FAO Workshop on  
Illegal logging and trade of illegally-derived forest products in the UNECE Region  
16-17 September 2004, Geneva**

**National Report  
GERMANY  
- Abstract -**

In Germany, the maintenance and sustainable management of forests are not endangered by illegal logging activities which do not take place on a significant level. This is due to the highly developed German Forest Legislation System that is effectively applied by the responsible national authorities.

As far as known well below than 5 % of the timber exported from and imported to Germany come from illicit sources, but no official data are available on that. With the exception of some individual cases (e.g. in connection with certified wood products) considerable incidents on smuggling and false declaration of roundwood and forest products are not known. The German custom offices conduct risk-management to combat fiscal risks (like collecting duties), measures to combat non-fiscal-risks depend on information from other administrations (e.g. plant protection, protection of endangered species) and are in an initial phase.

The German government participates in the EU-FLEGT-partnership initiatives and has furthermore initiated a bilateral co-operation with the Russian Federation in that respective field.

The German government has investigated the existing legal possibilities to combat illegal logging via the measures to combat money laundering. The results were encouraging, because various activities related to illegal logging already represent preliminary offences to money laundering, and if preliminary offence was committed abroad and is punishable there it can be prosecuted in Germany. The German government is now striving for an enhanced co-operation among national bodies to improve the existing measures and raise awareness among all related bodies like e.g. police, custom offices, banks and natural persons like e.g. timber traders, and it has - together with the EU-Presidency - initiated an EU-experts-workshop on that matter to take place later this year.