

Europe and North Asia (ENA) FLEG Ministerial Process
3rd International Steering Committee (ISC) meeting
Moscow, Russia
Wednesday, June 8, 2005, 2-3 PM

Meeting Summary

1. Objective of Meeting: On June 8, 2005 the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) of the Russian Federation and the World Bank co-chaired the 3rd meeting of the International Steering Committee of the Europe and North Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (ENA FLEG) Ministerial Process. The objective of the meeting was to discuss a proposed calendar as well as a process for stakeholder engagement in preparation for the Ministerial Conference to be held in St. Petersburg, Russia in November or December 2005.

2. Participants: The ISC member governments of Bulgaria, Canada, China, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Poland, Russia, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, as well as the European Commission and World Bank attended the meeting.

Invited guests: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE)

Co-Chairs: Gerhard Dieterle (World Bank) and Valery Roshchupkin (MNR Russia)

Summary of Deliberations

1. Timeline from ENA FLEG Preparatory Conference to the Ministerial Conference

1.1 Dates of Ministerial Conference: The Russian MNR proposed dates of Nov 22-25th, 2005 for the Ministerial Conference to be held in St. Petersburg, Russia. Various options including the proposed dates were discussed. As a result, ISC members agreed to Nov 22-25th as the best option to draw as many ministers as possible and to avoid conflicts with other major international events (see Table 1). The dates of Nov 22-25th, 2005 have been subsequently confirmed by the Russian hosts.

Table 1. Dates of major international conferences in 2005

Event	Date and place
24 th Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)	26-28 September 2005, Montreal
COP-2 ¹ of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (PIC COP-2)	26-30 September 2005, Rome
COP-7 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP-7)	17-28 October 2005, Nairobi
39 th Sessions of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC-39)	7-12 November 2005, Yokohama
COP-9 of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar COP-9)	7-15 November 2005, Kampala
Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) - Workshop on Combating Illegal Logging	14-15 November 2005, tbd
COP-8 of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP-8)	16-25 November 2005, Nairobi

¹ 2nd Conference of the Parties

Event	Date and place
COP-11 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP-11) and MOP-1 ² of the Kyoto Protocol	28 November - 9 December, Montreal
SBSTTA-11 ³ of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD SBSTTA-11) and 2 nd Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas (CBD PA WG-2)	PA WG-2: 28 November – 2 December, Montreal
	SBSTTA-11: 5-9 December 2005, Montreal
MOP-17 of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Montreal Protocol MOP-17)	12-16 December 2005, Dakar

1.2 Format of Ministerial Conference: a 4 four days conference was proposed from November 22 to 25 with two and a half days for a general segment and one and a half days for the ministerial segment. A tentative agenda is as follows.

General Segment – 2.5 days (November 22 – 24 before lunch)

Day 1: November 22

- Opening session
- Plenary sessions: government delegations and invited representatives from the private sector and civil society to discuss technical issues
- Start of intergovernmental negotiations as necessary: government delegations to discuss on the text of the Ministerial Declaration (MD) and Indicative Action Plan (IAP)

Day 2- Day 3 (a.m.): November 23- 24 (a.m.)

- Intergovernmental negotiations
- Parallel sessions of experts and invited representatives from the private sector and civil society

Ministerial Segment – 1.5 days (November 24 - 25)

Day 3 (p.m.): November 24 (p.m.)

- Closed session: ministers to review the negotiated Draft MD and IAP with their respective delegations in closed-door session

Day 4: November 25

- Finalization and Adoption of the MD and IAP

Note: the facilitators are in the process of revising and fine-tuning the agenda to best achieve the objectives of the ENA FLEG initiative. The updated tentative agenda will be distributed to ISC Members for comments as soon as it is available.

1.3 Tentative Timeline from ENA FLEG Preparatory Conference to the Ministerial Conference: ISC members discussed a timeline and agreed with the following tentative timeline with actions.

June 8

- Draft building blocks for MD and IAP as prepared at the Preparatory Conference

By July 21

- Revised draft building blocks for MD and IAP prepared by facilitators; and
- Secretariat to send the revised draft to ISC for review

By Aug 4

- ISC to review the revised draft and to send comments back to secretariat

² 1st Meeting of the Parties

³ 11th Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

By Aug 15

- Facilitators/secretariat to incorporate comments received by the ISC (*after this step, building blocks will be referred to as elements of the MD/IAP);
- Secretariat to send elements of the MD/IAP for government's consultations and inputs and other stakeholders' review

By Sep 15

- Governments and other stakeholders respond with suggestions (*it will not be possible to accommodate comments and suggestions received after Sep 15)

By Oct 10 (t.b.c.)

- Secretariat to consolidate documents into draft MD and IAP; and
- On Oct 10 (t.b.c.), ISC video conference to be held to review the progress

Nov 15 (t.b.c.)

- 4th ISC meeting (t.b.c.) considered during the workshop on combating illegal logging of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE)

Nov 22-25

- Ministerial Conference (Ministerial Segment on Nov 24-25)

Following are additional decisions discussed at the meeting:

- **Endorsement for international facilitators:** ISC endorsed the Preparatory Conference facilitators (Jag Maini and Jurgen Blaser) to have an official mandate to work on drafts Ministerial Declaration (MD) and Indicative Action Plan (IAP).
 - **Scope of the MD and IAP:** UK suggested and it was supported by other members to confine the scope of the MD and IAP to FLEG issues and not to include broader issues related to Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). It was furthermore recommended to prepare the final texts in a clear and concise manner.
 - **4th ISC meeting (t.b.d.):** Possibility of holding the 4th ISC meeting was discussed either prior to or after the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) workshop (Nov 13 or 16th). It was suggested to reschedule the MCPFE workshop one week earlier than the planned dates given the concern that the planned dates are too close to the dates of Ministerial Conference. The MCPFE will confirm if rescheduling of the workshop is possible but also indicated potential difficulty to change the dates. Alternatively, Turkey also expressed a possibility of hosting an ISC meeting during a proposed regional workshop on illegal logging in Turkey in September.
 - **NGO participation:** NGOs would have a variety of opportunities to engage in the ENA FLEG Ministerial process and to influence content of the draft MD and IAP through:
 - a. Sending in comments to the ENA FLEG website.
 - 1) Comments received before Sep 15 will be considered in the drafting of the MD and IAP
 - 2) Comments received after Sep 15 will be compiled and/or presented in full to the negotiating parties' information packages
 - b. National consultation processes that will allow NGOs to send their inputs to government representatives
 - c. Distribution of written briefs to the participants and poster exhibition by stakeholders on FLEG related key issues outside of the Ministerial Conference rooms
2. **International NGO self-selection process⁴:** The ISC agreed to a proposal raised by the chair to mandate IUCN to facilitate the selection process for international NGOs, given its excellent demonstrated work for facilitating self-selecting process for national NGOs. NGOs selected through IUCN facilitation for participation in the Preparatory Conference included one(s) from Azerbaijan, China, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Mongolia, and Russia.
- Further guidance on NGO self-selection processes for the Ministerial conference will be posted on the ENA FLEG website by mid-July [www.worldbank.org/enafleg].

⁴ By July 20, IUCN will provide the ISC with draft guidelines on the self-selection process, as well as the criteria which will be used to categorize NGOs as either "international" or "national" NGOs.

3. Private sector selection process: The following approach was proposed for the selection process of the private sector.

- 1) Prepare a proposed list of associations and major companies representing industries in the regions (e.g. North America, Central Europe, Northern Europe, China, Japan, Korea, Russia and possibly Caucus and Balkans)
 - Canada and Japan proposed to provide names of Canadian and Japanese Paper Associations, respectively
- 2) Fill in the list of possible candidates ensuring inclusion of different types of small, medium, to large associations/companies
- 3) ISC recommended that WBCSD or TFD be asked to support a selection process
- 4) Compiled lists will be sent to ISC for confirmation/approval

4. Fundraising⁵: World Bank indicated a need to raise an additional US\$300,000-350,000 of core funding to not only ensure adequate levels of participation of all stakeholders and national-level consultative processes, but also guarantee the funding of a Ministerial Conference in November. Following up on the 2nd ISC meeting, the World Bank sent letters to Sweden, Norway, and Denmark to request for potential funding. So far, Sweden has confirmed providing funding of EU30,000 and Norway could potentially provide some financial assistance. In addition, at the meeting, Canada and the US indicated a possibility to provide additional funding to cover the costs for the ministerial conference.

5. Other items:

5.1. G8 Summit: Illegal logging and associated trade is one of the highest priorities in the agenda of G8. UK, the presidency of the G8 summit in 2005, reported a current progress on preparation for the G8 summit to be held on 6-8 July 2005 in Perthshire, UK. UK also proposed that G8 representatives to have a brief meeting after the ministerial conference to report on progress in monitoring and reporting on implementation of earlier agreements.

5.2. Turkey workshop proposal: Turkey proposed to host a workshop in Turkey at the end of September with two days meeting and one day field excursion.

- World Bank expressed a concern for financing issue for the workshop given the estimated costs of approximately US\$30,000 to host such a workshop. He indicated a strong need for finding sufficient funding to cover the costs to organize the proposed workshop.
- Bulgaria commented that if participants can cover the cost of modest facilities themselves, having such workshop is possible.
- Jurgen Blaser indicated that Swiss could finance his costs as a facilitator. He also suggested that FAO could give some support for the workshop and that small support should also come from the ENA FLEG group.

⁵ If by mid-September the deficit in funding for the Ministerial Conference is not eliminated, the secretariat may recommend one of two options: either scale back conference activities and funding for participants or postponing the conference until funding is made available. The World Bank would also like to note, from the date of donor funding commitment, it often takes more than two months for these donor funds to be made actually available – usually due to the logistics of drafting legal agreements that are acceptable to both the World Bank and the donor organization.