EUTR implementation and domestic (forest) legislation in the Czech Republic

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EUTR in Central and Eastern Europe meeting
16th April 2015
Vienna
Abstract

• National legislative
• Competences / the structure of CA
• Comparison of sanction systems
• International activities / national workshop / seminars for operators
• Collaboration with other state agencies – Timber Institute / Ministry of Foreign Affairs / working party on legislative aspects of EUTR
National legislative

- **Concerning EUTR**
  - *Act No. 226/2013 Coll.*, **on placing timber and timber products on the market**
    - has been translated in English (*unofficial translation*) - Capacity4Dev
    - main goals– competences, sanctions

- **Concerning forestry and nature**
  - *Act No. 289/1995 Coll.*, **on forest** – FOREST LAW
  - *Act No. 114/1992 Coll.*, **on nature protection**

- These two are important for checks on domestic operators
  - *Act No. 100/2004 Coll.*, **on trading with endangered species** - CITES
Competences / the structure of CA

• Ministry of Agriculture (3)
  – delegates tasks
  – communicates with the Commission
  – handles appeals and complaints

• Forest Management Institute (20)
  – checks operators and MO´s

• Czech Trade Inspection Authority
  – checks traders

• Customs (2)
  – provide data of imports

• Regional Authorities (14x2)
  – impose sanctions
Sanctions

• **Forest law**
  – up to 1 000 000 CZK (app. 37 000 EUR)
  – executes logging beyond the approved forest management plan or executes another logging in contravention of this Act (in a forest younger than 80 years)

• **Act on Nature protection**
  – up to 2 000 000 CZK (app. 74 000 EUR)
  – executes illegal activity in the protected area, such as in protected forest

• **Act on trading with endangered species**
  – up to 1 500 000 CZK (app. 55 500 EUR)
  – Trades with CITES timber without permission
EUTR sanction system

- § 12 act no. 226/2013 specifies sanctions for breaching of the Act, from 50 000 CZK to 5 000 000 CZK.

- Operators are sanctioned, when
  - they do not maintain a due diligence system (up to 500 000 CZK = app. 18 300 EUR),
  - they do not maintain appropriate records evaluated during the control (up to 100 000 CZK = app. 3 700 EUR),
  - they place an illegally harvested timber or timber products on the market (up to 5 000 000 CZK = app. 183 000 EUR).

- Traders are sanctioned, when they do not maintain appropriate records evaluated during the control up to 50 000 CZK (app. 1830 EUR).

- few sanctions imposed – to operators and to traders as well
International activities – FAO workshop + ToS/national workshop/ seminars for operators

• **International FAO workshop on Forest Policy + Team of Specialist on forest policy**
  – Prague, Oct 2015
  – participants – EU countries, post-soviet countries such as Belarus, Ukraine, Armenia, Moldova, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan
  – wider scope of discussion, aim to include EUTR in the workshop formally/informally

• **EUTR national workshop**

• **Seminars for operators**
  – Local and regional in order to be closer to people
  – Small cities in combination with seminars in Prague and Brno
Collaboration with other state agencies – Timber Institute / Ministry of Foreign Affairs / working party on legislative aspects of EUTR

• **Timber Institute**
  – sample test – this autumn

• **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
  – training programme for agro-diplomats for embassies in Moscow and Beijing – one of our request is to take care of document verification for EUTR

• **Working party on legislative aspects of EUTR**
  – established by Ministry
  – meeting every June and September
  – interpretation of Statutes
Thank you for your attention.

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