

BIENNIAL REPORT

Completion date: 29.3.2017

INTRODUCTORY LETTER

Article 20, paragraph 1 of Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 (EUTR) requires each Member State to submit a biennial report on the application of this Regulation during the previous two years. On the basis of those reports the Commission shall draw up a report to be submitted to the European Parliament and the Council every two years. This report will help the Commission in analysing the progress made in respect of the conclusion and operation of FLEGT VPA processes pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 2173/2005 and their contribution to minimising the presence of illegally harvested timber and products derived from such timber on the internal market.

The biennial report will also help the EC in reviewing the functioning and effectiveness of the EUTR. It provides an opportunity for the Member States to share information regarding their overall implementation of the Regulation and can serve as a tool for self-assessment through which the Member States can identify achievements, significant developments or trends, gaps or problems and possible solutions. At the international level, the comparison and synthesis of information in biennial reports can support policy and decision-making.

The format is divided into seven parts:

- A. General Information
- B. National Legislation for Implementation of EUTR
- C. Implementation and Enforcement
- D. Cooperation on Implementation and Enforcement of EUTR
- E. Resources
- F. Technical Assistance and Capacity Development
- G. Communication Methods

Each biennial report should cover the period from March 2015 to February 2017 and shall be submitted in electronic form to the European Commission (ENV-TIMBER-REG@ec.europa.eu) no later than by 30 April 2017.

The report should be prepared in one of the 24 official working languages of the European Union.

Specific instructions

- Parties are encouraged to respond to all questions. Inputs can be made in spaces highlighted in grey.
- Unless otherwise indicated, responses should reflect measures taken during the reporting period.
- This reporting format is intended to be completed by making use of tick boxes and expandable space.
- The format is designed so that a reporting agency can take as much space as required to give a full answer. Use Appendix 2 with appropriate references in case additional space is needed.
- Please contact the European Commission (ENV-TIMBER-REG@ec.europa.eu) if any clarification in the preparation of the report is required.

List of abbreviations

CA	Competent Authority/Authorities
DD	Due Diligence
DDS	Due Diligence System
EUTR	European Union Timber Regulation
MO	Monitoring Organisation

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

A1 Respondent

Name of the Organisation	State Forest Service
Member State	Latvia
Period covered in this report	March 2015-February 2017

A2 Contact information of National Contact Point

Address	13. janvara iela 15
City	Riga
Zip code	LV-1932
Phone number	+371 26559802
Fax number	+371 67211176
Email address	stella.boke@vmd.gov.lv

A3 Contact information of Competent Authority/Authorities (if other than Respondent)

Name of the Organisation	n/a
Address	Click here to enter text.
City	Click here to enter text.
Zip code	Click here to enter text.
Phone number	Click here to enter text.
Fax number	Click here to enter text.
Email address	Click here to enter text.

A4 Contributing agencies, organizations

	Yes	No
Has the information already been provided in the previous biennial report? (if "no" please provide the information below)	V	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contributing organization	Click here to enter text.	
Country	Click here to enter text.	

See Appendix 1 for additional fill-in forms for contributing parties.

B. NATIONAL LEGISLATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF EUTR

B1 Penalties for infringement of EUTR (ref. EUTR Articles 10 (5), 19):

Penalty	Resulting from:	Organization with the authority to issue the penalty	The penalty is issued based on the law ¹ of	Range (min and max) and type (criminal and/or administrative) of penalties provided for infringements of the EUTR ²
Notice of remedial Actions	Prohibition	State Forest Service	EUTR; Regulation of the State Forest Service; State Forest Service Law	None
	DD obligation	State Forest Service	EUTR; Regulation of the State Forest Service; State Forest Service Law	None
	Traceability	n/a	n/a	n/a
Fines to operator	Prohibition	State Forest Service; Court	Applies to ALL operators: EUTR; Latvian Administrative Violations Code. Plus, applies ONLY to operators harvesting on national level: Forest Law; Latvian Administrative Violations Code; Criminal Law.	Applies to ALL operators: Administrative fines: 100 – 14000 EUR. Applies ONLY to operators harvesting on national level: Administrative fines: 70 – 14000 EUR. Criminal sanctions: Up to 760000 EUR; Persons held administratively or criminally liable have to compensate damages caused as a result of violations of the legislation.
	DD obligation	State Forest Service	EUTR; Latvian Administrative Violations Code	Administrative fines: 100 – 7000 EUR
	Traceability	n/a	n/a	n/a (In EUTR there is no traceability obligation for operators. It might be just part of DD obligation.)
Seizure of timber/ product	Prohibition	State Forest Service	EUTR; Latvian Administrative Violations Code	Confiscation of the particular product/products
	DD obligation	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Traceability	n/a	n/a	n/a
Suspension of authorisation to trade	Prohibition	n/a	n/a	n/a
	DD obligation	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Traceability	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other penalty, specify below Imprisonment or forced labour	Prohibition	Court	Applies ONLY to operators harvesting on national level: Forest Law Criminal Law	Up to 8 years imprisonment; Forced labour
	DD obligation	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Traceability	n/a	n/a	n/a

¹ e.g., based on criminal law, forest and/or environmental legislation, trade laws, or other relevant piece of legislation

² please, specify the variable as appropriate, e.g., currency: xx euros (or other currency), volume: m³, weight: ton (1000 kg), or time: weeks/ months/ years

B2 Level of penalties in comparable legal offences (ref. EUTR Articles 19 (2)):

Please note that the provision of information for table B2 is not compulsory. Penalties that can be imposed under other legislation for comparable and proportionate infringements:

Comparable legislation ¹	Types of penalties and maximum level of the penalties	Due diligence system required by the comparable legislation		Other relevant information
		Tick if "Yes"	Additional information on the DDS in place	
Example 1, Click here to enter text.	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Example 2, Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Example 3, Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.

¹Please specify examples of relevant and comparable legislation (e.g. CITES, FLEGT Regulation, national forest and environmental laws) that stipulates legal sourcing and/or trade.

C. IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT

C1 Responsibility to Check Operators Placing Timber and Timber Products on the Market (ref EUTR Article 7 (1)):

C1.1 Specify the authority/authorities who check(s) documentation and procedures of operators for:

i) Domestic timber:	State Forest Service
If other than CA, please provide details on the organisation and relations with CA:	Click here to enter text.
ii) Imported timber and timber products:	State Forest Service
If other than CA, please provide details on the organisation and relations with CA:	Click here to enter text.

C1.2 Access to documentation and procedures of operators:

	Yes	No
i) Authority/authorities has/have a free access to operators' DDS	V	<input type="checkbox"/>
If i) "no", please specify (e.g. if checks require operators' consent, warrant etc.):	Click here to enter text.	

C2 Checks on Operators and Traders

C2.1 Identification of operators and traders (ref. EUTR Article 10)

The following sources of information are used for identification of operators:

Source	Tick if applicable	Additional information (where appropriate)
Own register	V	Database with all forest owners in Latvia who has done forest inventory and are allowed to do logging activities
Registers of customs	V	Data on all operators – importers, received from customs authority upon request
Registers of other authorities	V	Data on all forest owners received from State Land Service upon request
Registers of private sector (e.g. industry associations)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.
Other	V	Internet and other sources

Total (estimated) number of operators:	n/a
Total (estimated) number of operators with regard to domestic timber:	Approx. 140000 forest owners. It is not possible to know the number of logging companies.
Total (estimated) number of operators with regard to imported timber:	Approx. 230 operators whose import value is above 50000 euros per year. Approx. 290 operators whose import value is above 30000 euros per year.
Total (estimated) number of operators with regard to both imported and domestic timber:	n/a

C2.2 Plan for checking operators (ref. EUTR Article 10(2))

C2.2.1 Time schedule for planning checks on operators and the main criteria used (i.e. what is the basis for the planning of checks on operators, how is the plan developed and reviewed etc.):

In Latvia, although the EUTR as well as national sanctions apply to all timber, with regard to checks, we separate timber imports from locally harvested wood.

Imported timber:

At the moment, plans for checks are developed twice per year. In C2.2.2 are the main risk factors considered.

Usually, at first we decide direction of the checks at large, like furniture from China or oak sawn wood from Ukraine. To choose specific operators, we use data received from customs. Depending on various circumstances and gathered information, there might be deviations from the plan.

Locally harvested timber:

In Latvia, timber harvesting is based on tree felling confirmation system. Felling Confirmation is a document, specifying the type of harvest, issued by the State Forest Service for any given felling site and it is valid for three years. As the Felling Confirmation is issued to a forest owner, he or she is legally responsible in case of illegal logging, unless proven otherwise (for example, the harvest company acted illicitly). Furthermore, once a year, the forest owner must report to the State Forest Service in case he or she has done any economic activity in the forest and regarding timber. Besides that, there is a special law and regulations on the inventory of trees and round timber which aims at regulating the procedures for record keeping in all stages of trees and round timber circulation.

Regarding the control mechanism, it starts with approx. 360 forest inspectors (in total in Latvia), who are responsible for issuing Felling Confirmations and who inspect felling sites before and after the logging. Although they are not obliged to inspect every site, there is a strict procedure, based on risk analyses, on occasions when it should be done and, overall, around 70 % or more of all felling areas are visited. Furthermore, the whole process is controlled by multi-level internal audits, the first stage being the State Forest Service's Regional Units' audits on the work of the forest inspectors. All felling sites are crosschecked in a desk based way and, further, around 800 audits yearly are conducted on sites. These are directed exactly at the legality of harvesting. Plus, there are many more site audits which are more concerned with other activities in forests, like forest regeneration and other.

The second stage of the internal audits is the State Forest Service's Central Bureau's organized audits on its Regional Units and, again, on the work of the forest inspectors, including site visits.

Meanwhile, the State Revenue Service is responsible for checks on tax paying, accounting, and traceability of round timber.

In conclusion, we consider that the documents mentioned above together with the described control mechanism make up a DD for locally harvested timber.

C2.2.2 Risk factors applied to the preparation and review of the check plan:

RISK FACTOR		Tick if applicable	Additional information (where appropriate)
1	Type of products	v	Click here to enter text.
2	Type of business (operator)	v	Click here to enter text.
3	Type of suppliers	v	Click here to enter text.
4	Country of harvest of timber/timber products	v	When known
5	Species of timber and timber products	v	When known
6	Information provided by other CAs	v	Click here to enter text.
7	Concerns provided by third parties	v	Click here to enter text.
8	Other, Country of export	v	Click here to enter text.
9	Other, Value of import	v	Click here to enter text.
10	Other, Background of operator	v	When known
11	Other, Market/operator research/intelligence	v	Click here to enter text.
12	Other, Volume of import	v	Click here to enter text.

C2.2.3 Check plan on operators for March 2015-February 2017 indicating whether the checks focus on desktop review (**Desk**), document review on site (**Doc**), product inspection on site (**Prod**) or combined check including both document review on site and product inspection on site (**Comb**):

	Desk	Doc	Prod	Comb	Other comments
	Number of operators (domestic)²				
TOTAL	#	#	#	#	Please see C2.2.1
	Number of operators (imported timber)				
TOTAL	#	20	#	4	Click here to enter text.

Total number of checks on operators planned (domestic timber) ³ :	Please see C2.2.1
Total number of checks on operators planned (imported timber):	24

² Please include only the specific checks under the EUTR (focusing on placing on the market), not general forestry checks.

³ Only EUTR specific (focusing on placing on the market).

C2.3 Checks undertaken on operators and traders

C2.3.1 Number of checks (ref. EUTR Articles 10, 11):

Checks on operators carried out between March 2015-February 2017 indicating

- type of checks: desktop review (**Desk**), document review on site (**Doc**), product inspection on site (**Prod**) or combined check including both document review on site and product inspection on site (**Comb**);
- whether the checks were included in the planned sampling (plan) or were due to information received from other authorities or third parties or both:

	Desk	Doc	Prod	Comb	Comments according to b.
	Number of operators (domestic)⁴				
TOTAL	#	#	#	#	Please see C2.2.1
	Number of operators (imported timber)				
TOTAL	2	19	#	3	All planned

Total number of checks on operators undertaken (domestic timber) ⁵ :	Please see C2.2.1
Total number of checks on operators undertaken (imported timber):	24 (This is a number of operators checked but during one 'open' check there are several visits and other engagements with the operator.)

Total number of checks on traders undertaken:	n/a
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Other relevant information for section C2.3.1 based on the risk observations mentioned in C2.2.2 (e.g. risks related to type of products, type of business, type of suppliers, country of harvest of timber, species of timber, information provided by other CAs or third parties). Please include also additional description on domestic timber, if needed:

Considering how comparatively small are importers in Latvia, we try to continue to choose operators from the 'bigger end' based on the value of import per year combined with country and product risk factors. The country factor regarding China coincided with other Member States' or group of Member States' initiatives to check Chinese imports. In a few cases the main factor was species risk.

For the information on locally harvested timber, please see C2.2.1

⁴ Only EUTR specific (focusing on placing on the market).

⁵ Only EUTR specific (focusing on placing on the market).

C2.3.2 Results of checks and penalties issued (ref. EUTR Articles 10, 11, and 19)

- i) Number of checks undertaken between March 2015-February 2017 having resulted in notices of remedial actions (RA), remedial actions that led to a penalty (RALP)⁶, total penalties (P), court cases (CC) and/or other action (OA):

	RA	RALP	P	CC	OA	Specify here "other action", including court cases (CC) outcomes
Number of operators (domestic)⁷						
TOTAL (Prohibition)	n/a	#	#	#	#	Click here to enter text.
TOTAL (DD obligation)	#	#	#	#	#	Click here to enter text.
TOTAL (Traceability)	#	#	#	#	#	Click here to enter text.
Number of operators (imported timber)						
TOTAL (Prohibition)	#	#	#	#	#	Click here to enter text.
TOTAL (DD obligation)	#	#	#	#	11	Instructions/advice given to the operators and several checks are still open with a time for the operators to improve their DD. A couple of operators had stopped importing by the time of the check – one check still open. One company is in liquidation process – check still open.
TOTAL (Traceability)	#	#	#	#	#	Click here to enter text.

If these categories (RA and RALP) do not exactly correspond to your national legal system, please provide an additional description, including to what categories in your national legal system the numbers reported above correspond. Please include all additional categories under OA and describe.

n/a

Total number of penalties (P above; for domestic timber ⁸):	See C2.3.2 ii)
Total number of penalties (P above; for imported timber):	n/a

- ii) Describe type of penalties and bodies imposing penalties between March 2015-February 2017:

Types of penalties and body imposing the penalty (e.g. fines, seizure, suspension of authorization to trade and other penalties)
Not available in case penalties for domestic illegal logging (but not sanctioned under EUTR) are not asked here.

⁶ If in your national legal system there are other categories, please provide a description in the space dedicated to this below.

⁷ Please include only the specific cases under the EUTR (focusing on placing on the market), not general forestry cases.

⁸ Only EUTR specific (focusing on placing on the market).

Other relevant information for section C2.3.2 based on the risk observations mentioned in C2.2.2 (e.g. risks related to type of products, type of business, type of suppliers, country of harvest of timber, species of timber, information provided by other CAs or third parties):

*For most operators, because of harvest regions or species used in the products, risk level cannot be seen as being 'high' (in the actual enforcement it is difficult to stick only to 'negligible' or 'non-negligible'), however, some operators need time to set up an adequate DDS, which is among main reasons why there are 'open' checks.
 *For low value furniture (plywood+laminate, for example) and wooden items from China, the smaller the operator, the more difficult for it to get the information.
 *There clearly are cases when a coordinated action from MS CAs would be needed to make pressure on specific producers, especially when big or international companies are involved.
 *As so far non of the cases concern clearly 'high' risk imports, it is more effective to maintain cooperative/educating manner than practice strict enforcement, which would require a lot of time (building cases) but very possibly would have negative results when it goes to court.

C3 Checks on Monitoring Organizations (MO)

C3.1 Number of checks per MO carried out between March 2015-February 2017 (ref. EUTR Article 8 (4)):

Name of each MO checked	MO registered in the MS		Number of checks undertaken per MO	Resulting in notifications ¹ to the EC	Resulting in penalties	Other comments, notify here if the checks were according to plan
	Yes	No				
i) n/a	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No. of checks	No. of checks	No. of checks	Click here to enter text.
ii) Click here to enter text.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No. of checks	No. of checks	No. of checks	Click here to enter text.
iii) Click here to enter text.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No. of checks	No. of checks	No. of checks	Click here to enter text.
iv) Click here to enter text.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No. of checks	No. of checks	No. of checks	Click here to enter text.
v) Click here to enter text.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No. of checks	No. of checks	No. of checks	Click here to enter text.
vi) Click here to enter text.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No. of checks	No. of checks	No. of checks	Click here to enter text.

¹ for withdrawal of recognition.

Main criteria for selecting MOs to be checked and other relevant information for section C3.1:

We have met with the two MOs who have offices in Latvia. The third who have rights to act as an MO is not active in the sector. We have met also with the fourth MO, which was recognised in June 2015 and whose main office is in Latvia. The number of MOs' clients is very limited.

C4 FLEGT VPA processes contribution to implementation and enforcement of EUTR

Reporting in this section should include information on the general contribution of all VPA processes to the EUTR, and not only Indonesia (the only operational VPA country at the moment).

<p>How has conclusion and operation of FLEGT VPA processes contributed to minimising the presence of illegally harvested timber and timber products derived from such timber on the internal market? (e.g. facilitating compliance by the operators/traders; reducing number of checks on operators and/or penalties applied; reducing the need for human and financial resources for implementation and enforcement of EUTR)</p>	<p>To our current knowledge, we do not have any direct trade with most of the VPA countries. It can be assumed that also non-directly, in products that are exported to Latvia from other producer countries, specific 'high' risk species from most of the VPA countries are very few. There should be 'medium' risk species (in paper, in board materials, and similar) going through other producer countries from some of the VPA countries.</p> <p>Regarding Malaysia, it is hard for us to say at what level the VPA process has contributed to traceability and legal logging, yet, there seem to be several processes that help to minimise the risk.</p> <p>It might be a huge benefit for operators to import from Indonesia where no DD is needed. Of course, no actual evidence yet that the trade patterns have changed. Some operators, however, have noted that to switch from one country to another is not so easy because of product design.</p>
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Please confirm the level of potential relevance of the FLEGT VPA processes to implementation and enforcement of EUTR in your Member State (considering e.g. levels of trade, number of operators – importers, etc.):	High	Medium	Low	Additional information (where appropriate)
Cameroon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.
Central African Republic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.
Côte d'Ivoire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.
Democratic Republic of the Congo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.
Gabon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.
Ghana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.
Liberia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.
Republic of the Congo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.
Indonesia	<input type="checkbox"/>	v	<input type="checkbox"/>	We do not have too many operators.
Laos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.
Malaysia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	v	We have few direct operators.
Thailand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	v	We have very few direct operators.
Vietnam	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	v	We have few direct operators.
Guyana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.
Honduras	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.

Please list a maximum of five other countries which are particularly relevant for your work:

Russia
China
Ukraine

D. COOPERATION ON IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF EUTR

D1 Cooperation with Authorities in EUTR Enforcement

D1.1 List of national government institutions your country's CA has cooperated with between March 2015 - February 2017 on EUTR implementation and enforcement and description of the main areas of cooperation (*ref. EUTR Article 12*):

Institution	Area ¹ of cooperation
State Revenue Service's Customs Division	Data on operators
Ministry of Agriculture	Cooperation regarding FLEGT
Nature Conservation Agency	Cooperation regarding CITES (agreement; no actual action)
INTERPOL's NCB	Cooperation in case of investigations (mutual agreement; no actions yet)

¹ Area of cooperation ie joint enforcement actions, joint investigation, technical support

D1.2 List of CAs and/or other institutions in other EU Member States your country's CA has cooperated with between March 2015 - February 2017 (*ref. EUTR Article 12*):

CA or other authority	Area ¹ of cooperation
DK, SE, FI, EE CAs	Nordic-Baltic enforcement meetings; joint enforcement actions
UK CA	Joint check in the UK; intelligence exchange
Several other CAs	Exchange of materials/intelligence; technical support
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.

¹ Area of cooperation ie joint enforcement actions, joint investigation, technical support

D1.3 List of institutions in non-EU countries the CA has cooperated with between March 2015 - February 2017:

Institution	Area ¹ of cooperation
Iceland, Norway	Nordic-Baltic enforcement meetings; joint enforcement actions
USA Lacey Act authorities	Technical support
Ministry of Agriculture, Belarus	Some informative support
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.

¹ Area of cooperation ie joint enforcement actions, joint investigation, technical support, sharing of intelligence etc.

D2 Substantiated Stakeholder Concerns Received on Implementation and Enforcement of EUTR

D2.1 Total number of operators about whom concerns were received (CR) from third parties and/or MOs, number of cases which resulted in checks on operators (C) and number of cases which resulted in penalties (CP) between March 2015-February 2017 (*ref. EUTR Article 8 (4)*):

Concerns received from:	CR	C	CP	Please specify type of concerns received and/or provide other relevant information e.g. applicable HS codes
	Number of operators			
Third parties	n/a	#	#	We have received one or two 'unsubstantiated' concerns from operators about other operators.
MOs	#	#	#	
TOTAL	#	#	#	

D2.2 Total number of traders about whom concerns were received (CR) from third parties and/or MOs, number of cases which resulted in checks on traders (C) and number of cases which resulted in penalties (CP) between March 2015-February 2017:

Concerns received from:	CR	C	CP	Please specify type of concerns received and/or provide other relevant information
	Number of traders			
Third parties	n/a	#	#	Click here to enter text.
MOs	#	#	#	
TOTAL	#	#	#	

D2.3 Stakeholder concerns about operation of MOs (ref. EUTR defining recital 21):

Type of concern	Type of stakeholder ¹ and if possible, name	CA Action
n/a	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.

¹ Please specify the name and type of stakeholder e.g., environmental/social NGO, consumer group, industry, certification organisation

Other relevant information for section D2.2:

n/a

E. RESOURCES

E1 Resources Available in CA for Implementation and Enforcement of EUTR

E1.1 Human resources

i) Human resources available between March 2015-February 2017 for implementation and enforcement focused on imported timber	1 person full time.
ii) Human resources available between March 2015-February 2017 for implementation and enforcement focused on domestic timber ⁹	1 person full time. Plus, please see C2.2.1

E1.2 Financial resources (if the information is available to the respondent)

iii) <u>Total</u> annual budget for EUTR implementation, e.g., cooperation, training, reporting	No special budget; EUTR is implemented within the state budget and the budget allocated to the State Forest Service
iv) <u>Total</u> annual budget for EUTR enforcement, e.g., checks, remedial actions, issuance of penalties	No special budget; EUTR is enforced within the state budget and the budget allocated to the State Forest Service

Other relevant information for section E1.2:

n/a

⁹ Please include only the specific cases under the EUTR (focusing on placing on the market), not general forestry cases.

F. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

F1 Technical Assistance Provided to Operators

F1.1 Assistance and training provided by any Member State government organisation to operators during March 2015-February 2017 (*ref. EUTR Article 13*):

Organisation providing assistance/training	Type of assistance/training provided
State Forest Service	Section for EUTR on our (CA's) website; Guidelines (CA's) for operators; Consultations/advice to individual operators – in person, on phone, via e-mails; Consultations with producers and traders associations.
Latvian Rural Consultation and Education Centre	Seminars on forest management which include legal harvesting
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.

F1.2 If the information is available to the respondent, please provide a general description of training/assistance provided to operators by other organisations (*ref. EUTR Article 13*):

Organisation providing assistance/training	Type of assistance/training provided
Wood Industry Federation	Advice on DD and information on EUTR general requirements
Forest Owners Association	Advice on legal harvesting
MOs	Info on EUTR and its general requirements
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.

F1.3 Please provide an estimate of the number of operators who received assistance/training between March 2015-February 2017:	n/a
F1.4 Out of the above, how many were SMEs?	All (as almost none large in Latvia)

F2 Other Technical Assistance Provided

F2.1 Other assistance and training provided in March 2015-February 2017:

Organisation(s) providing training/assistance	Organisation(s) receiving training/assistance	Type of assistance/training provided
Forest Trends	CA (info goes also to operators)	Technical/information training/support
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.

G. COMMUNICATION METHODS

G1 CA communication with stakeholders

G1.1 Methods used for communicating with stakeholders and for dealing with concerns and complaints received from stakeholders during March 2015-February 2015:

Purpose of communication	Communication methods ¹	Target groups
Dissemination of information, awareness raising	Website, phone calls, e-mails, meetings, info on the internet/in press	Producers and traders associations, NGOs, MOs, operators
Receipt of concerns	E-mails, phone calls, in person, letters	Same as above
Responses to concerns received	Official way is in writing	Same as above
Receipt of complaints and appeals	E-mails, phone calls, in person, letters	Same as above
Responses to complaints and appeals received	Official way is in writing	Same as above
Other	n/a	n/a

¹e.g. website, emails, phone calls, meetings, newsletters, conferences or other.

H. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Please include any other relevant information, including on other relevant initiatives. Views and feedback received from other stakeholders can also be reported:

*In C2.3.2 we said that “there are cases when a coordinated action from MS CAs would be needed to make pressure on specific producers, especially when big or international companies are involved”. Not talking about specific producers but rather non-EU countries, in the current reporting period there is this one example where common understanding and joint action from all CAs is needed. (Latvia is not involved in this.) But the same is true for all countries, regions, products, which currently are not in the limelight. There would have to be constant comparison between MSs about actual enforcement and requirements we demand from the operators.

*We have expressed elsewhere our opinion on difficulties and weak points of the EUTR regarding countries and regions like Western Russia and Ukraine. The situation makes to think that EUTR in a purely grammatical and ‘thought to be uniform’ form does not work very well. In the future, perhaps, more specific, tailor-made solutions have to be sought.

Appendix 1

Additional contact information forms:

A4 Contributing agencies, organizations or individuals

Contributor	n/a
Country	Click here to enter text.

Contributor	Click here to enter text.
Country	Click here to enter text.

Contributor	Click here to enter text.
Country	Click here to enter text.

Contributor	Click here to enter text.
Country	Click here to enter text.

Contributor	Click here to enter text.
Country	Click here to enter text.

Contributor	Click here to enter text.
Country	Click here to enter text.

Appendix 2

Comments and/or
other relevant
information:

n/a