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http://www.bankwatch.org

Bulgaria:

Centre for Environmental
Information and Education
(CEIE)
For the Earth

Czech Republic:

Centrum pro dopravu a
energetiku (CDE)
Hnutí Duha

Estonia:

Estonian Green Movement–FoE

Georgia:

Green Alternative

Hungary:

National Society of
Conservationists – Friends of
the Earth Hungary (MTVSZ)

Lithuania:

Atgaja

Macedonia:

Ekò-svest

Poland:

Polish Green Network (PGN)
Institute of Environmental
Economics (IEE)

Serbia:

Center for Ecology and
Sustainable Development
(CEKOR)

Slovakia:

Friends of the Earth – Center
for Environmental Public
Advocacy (FoE–CEPA)

Ukraine:

National Ecological Centre of
Ukraine (NECU)

CEE Bankwatch Network's
mission is to prevent
environmentally and socially
harmful impacts of
international development
finance, and to promote
alternative solutions and public
participation.

**Letter to EIB and EBRD regarding the illegal logging of trees in the
protected Khimki Forest, connected to the Moscow – St.Petersburg
motorway**

Dear Ms Barrett and Mr Clark,

I would like to alert you to the fact that we have received news from the Save Khimki group that the cutting of trees in the Khimki Forest started this week, without the proper approvals, and neglecting safety rules. Although local people appear to have managed to stop the cutting for now, the situation appears to be extremely tense.

On 16 July, Evgenia Chirikova, the co-ordinator of the Save Khimki movement, was physically assaulted by a tall man who had a silver Jeep. Thankfully she has not suffered long-term damage but was injured and has filed complaints with the police.

An old tractor that was near a protest camp set up by local people was also set alight by unknown persons, and it is surprising that given the dry conditions, this did not result in a serious and widespread forest fire.

More details in Russian and pictures are available at www.ecmo.ru

We would ask the EBRD to look into these incidents and obtain further information from the local people before considering how to proceed. We are concerned that if the concessionaire and the potential financiers of the project are not able to better ensure that such incidents do not occur, then any financing may be seen as an endorsement of such practices.

Best regards,

Pippa Gallop
Research Co-ordinator
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