



CEE Bankwatch Network
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FROM:
Olexi Pasyuk
Central Asia Program
Coordinator
CEE Bankwatch Network,
S.Petlyury 1,
01032, Ukraine

TO:
Thomas Mirow, President
EBRD
One Exchange Square,
London EC2A 2JN,
United Kingdom

and
Philippe Maystadt, President
European Investment Bank
100, boulevard Konrad
Adenauer
L-2950 Luxembourg

Bulgaria:

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

Czech Republic:

Centrum pro dopravu a
energetiku
Hnutí Duha

Estonia:

Estonian Green Movement–FoE

Georgia:

Green Alternative

Hungary:

Nature Protection Club of
Eotvos Lorand University (ETK)
National Society of
Conservationists–FoE (NSC)

Lithuania:

Atgaja

Macedonia:

Eko–svest

Poland:

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

Russia:

Sakhalin Environment Watch

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.

26 July 2010

Dear President Maystadt

Dear President Mirow

I write in regards to this week's escalating violence at Khimki Forest near Moscow, Russia.

Conflicts between peaceful demonstrators and construction crews that were felling forest trees without the necessary permits are related to works on the Moscow – St. Petersburg motorway project that both the European Investment Bank and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development are considering to finance.

Specifically I refer to the M10 road section between kilometres 15 and 58 operated under a public–private partnership.

On the morning of July 22, members of civil society were attacked by scores of unidentified assailants garbed in masks and white tee shirts. While protestors called police to intervene, upon arriving to the site police instead chose not to interfere. Reports from the ground indicate that clashes continued before the passively observing police eventually arrested local activists.

Notifications today are that several of the activists were brutally beaten and injured. Forest defenders have been arrested, including Eugenia Chirikova, leader of the Movement to Defend Khimki Forest and two journalists from the national paper Novaya Gazeta and Radio Svoboda. The arrested activists are being held on charges of hooliganism which carries a punishment ranging from a fine to 15 days imprisonment.

The attacks on these protestors follow a blockade that was established by Movement to Defend Khimki Forest earlier this week, in response to the illegal felling of trees in the forest. Estimates are that nearly seven hectares have been destroyed already.

In light of these developments, I strongly believe that the European Investment Bank and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development should immediately drop consideration for this project, as it is associated with violence and negligence of the local public interest. I would also urge both banks to condemn publicly illegal acts of deforestation and violence against peaceful demonstrations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Olexi Pasyuk', written in a cursive style.

Olexi Pasyuk