

CEE Bankwatch Network
Na Rozcesti 1434/6
190 00 Praha 9 – Liben
Czech Republic
Email: main@bankwatch.org
http://www.bankwatch.org

TO:

Dmitry Medvedev
President
Russian Federation

09 September 2010

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)

Latvia:

Latvian Green Movement

Lithuania:

Atgaja

Macedonia:

Eko–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.

Dear Mr President,

We welcome your decision to stop the destruction of trees and habitat in the Khimki Forest Park and to consult the public on the routing for the Moscow – St. Petersburg motorway.

Nevertheless, we are alarmed that it is not sufficiently clear how the public consultation process – as opposed to simply a public hearing – will be organised and how the results will be taken into account. There is a danger that the results will depend simply on whoever shouts the loudest rather than bringing the best results for people and the environment.

There are at least five possible variants for the motorway routing, and documentation detailing the advantages and disadvantages of each option needs to be available so that people have clear information on which to base their comments.

Unfortunately the importance of this has already been illustrated by attempts by the Khimki authorities to manipulate information about the route and use various methods of pressure to make people sign petitions in support of the existing motorway placement. Public sector workers have also been obliged to take part in sham rallies in support of the existing routing. In addition it cannot be a coincidence that the Movement to Defend Khimki Forest's website was subjected to a DDoS attack during a most crucial time when the open exchange of information is vital.

We therefore ask you to ensure that the process of public and expert discussion is organised in a fair and open manner, is based on the availability of an environmental impact assessment showing all route options, and genuinely aims to take all sides into account and reach an agreeable solution on the route of the motorway.

We are also sure that forming a third-party, non-biased committee to consider the concerns of all sides, acting as a mediator would assist the process of finding the best route for the motorway considerably.

Yours sincerely,

Pippa Gallop
Research Coordinator
CEE Bankwatch Network