

Monitoring of Forestry Legislation in Ukraine and the EU

Period: January - June 2025

The series "Monitoring of Forest Legislation in Ukraine and EU" provides a brief overview of laws and draft laws of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, adopted Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, entered into force Orders of Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine and of State Forest Resource Agency of Ukraine, that are important for the sustainable development of forestry.

Further this series includes an overview on recent regulations EU level related to forestry respectively forest land use with relevance for Ukraine.

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Monitoring of Ukrainian forestry legislation

Adopted regulatory acts:

Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 5 dated 07.01.2025 "On Approval of the Procedure for Information Exchange between the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine, the National Securities and Stock Market Commission, the State Tax Service and the State Customs Service on Transactions with Timber and Wood Products".

The Resolution introduces a mechanism for electronic exchange of information on the sale and purchase, processing of timber, transactions with timber and timber products, export and import of timber and certain timber products.

This Procedure creates conditions for digitalisation and modernisation of Ukraine's forest administration system, which will help prevent illegal logging and timber trade.

Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 23.05.2025 No. 605 "On Amendments to the Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 08.10.2014 No. 521 and 7 February 2023 No.112".

This Resolution amended the Regulation on the SFRA of Ukraine and the Procedure for forest management planning, namely:

- grants additional power to SFRA, particularly, to inspect forest plots on site before issuing a logging ticket and control the rights of long-term temporary use, with the objective to establish compliance with the data specified in the documents submitted by the users ;
- updated the terminology in the Procedure for forest management planning;

- the procedure for considering of organisational changes during forest management planning is defined.

The amendments will help reduce the risks of violation of the law in the course of forest use and facilitate the effective implementation of the State Forest Management Strategy until 2035, increasing the transparency and quality of administrative decisions.

Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 30.05.2025 No. 625 "On the Implementation of a Pilot Project on Issuance of Certain Permits in the Field of Forestry in Electronic Form".

As part of the pilot project, from 01.06.2025 to 01.06.2027, a logging ticket and a certificate of origin for timber and sawn timber will be issued in electronic form through the EcoSystem Unified Environmental Platform.

The Resolution extends the pilot project launched in 2023.

The electronic form of permits will ensure:

- simplification of the process of obtaining them;
- reducing the administrative burden on users and public authorities;
- transparency and control over the use of forest resources.

The project is coordinated by MEPR. The SFRA, the Ministry of Digital Transformation, permanent forest users and forest owners are involved in the implementation.

Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 18.06.2025 No. 721 "On Amendments to Certain Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Special Use of Forest Resources".

The Resolution introduces a number of rules on the special use of forest resources and simplifies licensing procedures for forestry measures.

In particular, the Resolution

- introduces the concept of "logging for research purposes" ;
- defines the requirements for preparatory work before logging;
- introduces standards for the arrangement of skid trails;
- confirms commission surveys as mandatory for harvesting that is not planned in forest management materials, requires permanent forest users announce about them in advance on their official websites.

Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 21.05.2025 No. 489-p "On Approval of the Strategy for the Development of the Hunting Industry of Ukraine for the Period up to 2035 and Approval of the Action Plan for its Implementation in 2025-2027".

The strategy provides for goals and objectives addresses environmental, economic, socio-cultural and other relevant issues in the field of hunting.

Expected results of the action plan implementation:

- Bringing national legislation in line with European standards;
- Enhancing protection of game animals and their habitats;
- Creating a network of aviary farms and centres;
- Fostering digitalisation of hunting management;
- Strengthening state control in the field of hunting and game management ;
- Establishing scientific and educational institutions, support for research and reintroduction of rare species.

Orders of the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEPR)

Order of the Ministry of Environmental Protection dated 09.01.2025 No. 40, registered with the Ministry of Justice on 27.01.2025 under No. 147/43553 "On

Amendments to Certain Orders of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine" (as amended on 31.01.2025 No. 171).

This Order amends the Procedure for Issuing Hunter's Licences and Annual Checklists for Recording Game Hunted and Violations of Hunting Rules, as well as the Regulation on Interregional Forestry and Hunting Departments of the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine. In particular, the issuance of duplicate hunter's licences and control cards has been cancelled. In the event of loss, damage or corruption of a hunter's license and/or control card, the hunter receives new documents in accordance with the established procedure.

Order of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine of 15.01.2025 No. 60, registered with the Ministry of Justice on 21.01.2025 under No. 109/4351 "On Approval of the Criteria for Determining Enterprises, Institutions and Organisations that are Important for the National Economy in the Field of Forestry and Hunting in a Special Period" (as amended on 23.01.2025 No. 108).

This Order establishes the criteria for enterprises, institutions and organisations that are important for the national economy in the field of forestry and hunting during a special period.

These include enterprises that

- have the right to permanent use of forestry land plots granted to them for permanent use on an area of at least 500 hectares, or have more than 15 insured employees of;
- main economic activity is hunting, forestry, logging or provision of auxiliary services in forestry.

Order of the Ministry of Environmental Protection dated 14.04.2025 No. 740, registered with the Ministry of Justice on 02.06.2025 under No. 851/44257 "On Amendments to the Instruction on Electronic Timber Accounting".

This order expands the list of operations performed by the responsible person when issuing a consignment note (timber) using a pocket PC.

In particular, the responsible person must take a photo and upload a photo of the vehicle loaded with timber from the front (cab and vehicle licence plate), side (vehicle and trailer/semi-trailer, if any), rear (together with the grade and licence plate), as well as the grade with a tag using a pocket PC.

The forms of waybills for the transportation of timber by rail and road have been updated.

Draft laws submitted to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Draft law on amendments to certain legislative acts of Ukraine on strengthening liability for burning dry vegetation (reg. № 13074 dated 11.03.2025) and the draft law on amendments to certain legislative acts on strengthening liability for violation of fire safety requirements in forests, territories and objects of the nature reserve fund and committing other offences in the field of environmental protection (reg. № 13074-1 dated 27.03.2025).

The adoption of this draft law will help to:

- Increase liability for violation of fire safety rules in forests and procedures for burning dry vegetation and its residues, as well as for damage to flora by fire;
- Improve of certain procedural aspects of bringing to administrative liability for the commission of these offences.

Draft Law on Amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On Peculiarities of State Regulation of Business Entities Related to the Sale and Export of Timber" regarding the extension of the moratorium on the export of unprocessed timber (Reg. № 13223 dated 29.04.2025).

The draft law proposes to extend the moratorium on the export of unprocessed timber for another 10 years to ensure national security, economic stability and environmental balance of Ukraine.

Taking into account Article 35 of the Association Agreement and the conclusions and recommendations of the Arbitration Commission on the temporary ban on the export of unprocessed timber introduced by Ukraine in 2015, the draft law requires consultations with the European Union in accordance with the provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT 1947).

Draft laws on the timber market (reg. No. 13227 dated 01.05.2025 (revised), reg. № 13227-1 of 12 May 2025, No. 13227-2 of 16 May 2025, reg. No. 13227-3 of 16.05.2025).

The various drafts of this law aim to regulate circulation, sale and purchase of timber and develop market relations in the timber industry.

The adoption of the draft law is aiming to:

- Ensure transparency and openness of the timber market;
- Improve the timber trade mechanism;
- Implement comprehensively the electronic timber accounting system;
- Develop the export of high value-added products.

The draft laws also provide for the extension of the moratorium on the export of unprocessed timber for the duration of martial law and afterwards additional five years period.

The Draft Law on Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine on Simplification of Conditions for Conducting Business (Reg. № 13325 dated 30.05.2025).

In order to create a favourable environment for business development and reduce the administrative burden on entrepreneurs the draft law proposes to cancel inefficient, institutionally outdated instruments of state regulations namely to

- cancel the permit for cutting down seed and plus trees;
- cancell the permit for hunting game animals for scientific purposes, relocation to new habitats, and collection of bird eggs.

Monitoring of forestry legislation in the EU

Regulatory acts adopted

Commission Regulation (EU) 2025/130 of 28.01.2025 amending Regulation (EC) No 865/2006 as regards amendments to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the possibility of issuing retrospective authorisations.

This Regulation amends Commission Regulation (EC) No 865/2006 of 04.04.2006 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora through the regulation of trade in them.

In particular, the amendments relate to the registration of captive breeding operations for commercial purposes and the preparation and submission of reports on imports, exports, re-exports and sales.

In addition, the Regulation updates certain annexes to Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006, which include:

- a list of codes to be included in the description of animal species and units of

measurement to be used in permits and certificates;

- standard references to the nomenclature used to indicate the scientific names of species in permits and certificates;
- codes to indicate the purpose of the transaction and the place of origin of species;
- information provided as part of the registration application procedure.

COMMISSION EXECUTIVE REGULATION (EU) 2025/1093 of 22 May 2025 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the list of countries that pose a low or high risk of production of certain products for which the relevant products do not comply with Article 3(a).

Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 aims at reducing the European Union's contribution to deforestation and forest degradation worldwide. It introduces a due diligence obligation for operators and traders placing on, making available on or exporting from the EU market certain goods and products. These products include: cattle, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, rubber, soybeans and timber.

The European Commission, in accordance with Article 29 of the Regulation, is obliged to carry out risk assessments for countries or parts thereof from which the goods concerned originate. Based on this assessment, countries are classified by risk level: high, standard or low.

The Annex to the Regulation contains a list of such countries. Ukraine has been recognised as a low-risk country, which indicates compliance with environmental requirements for the sustainable production of the relevant products.

Consideration of draft legal acts in the field of forestry in the EU

Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the status of the wolf (*Canis lupus*).

On 06.12.2024, the Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) adopted the proposal of the European Union to change the conservation status of the wolf (*Canis lupus*) by removing it from Appendix II (strictly protected fauna species) and including it in Appendix III (protected fauna species).

The decision came into force on 07.03.2025. In this regard, in order to harmonise EU legislation with the amendments to the Bern Convention, it became necessary to revise the Annexes to Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora. The wolf's conservation status in all EU Member States is expected to be updated, changing its category from a "strictly protected" species to a "protected" species.

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