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Global Agricultural Information Network

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Forestry Agency Becomes Part of the Ministry of Natural Resources

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the News

Wood Products

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Report Highlights:

The Presidential Executive Order (Ukaz) of May 21, 2012 “On the Structure of Federal Executive Bodies” includes some changes in the structure of the Federal Government concerning agriculture, fisheries and forestry. According to the Order the Federal Forestry Agency (FFA) will fall again under the control of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology. Sources at the Federal Forestry Agency however do not foresee any significant reorganization and believe the new structure will not be an obstacle to successful implementation of objectives in the forestry sector in Russia.

Executive Summary:

The Presidential Executive Order (Ukaz) of May 21, 2012 “On the Structure of Federal Executive Bodies” includes some changes in the structure of the Federal Government concerning agriculture, fisheries and forestry. According to the Order the Federal Forestry Agency (FFA) will be back under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology. However, unlike the Government’s decision to transfer the Federal Fishery Agency to the Ministry of Agriculture, which resulted in a strong backlash from the fishery sector, the forestry sector has taken the decision more enthusiastically and experts believe that it will not be an impediment to the sector’s development.

According to an official at the Federal Forestry Agency the structure of the Agency has not changed yet, and it is unlikely to undergo significant changes or reorganization. This official also added that “the titles might get changed but the staff will continue to perform regular duties” and believes that the strong lobby of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology can also serve as a strong instrument in implementation of the Federal Forestry Agencies objectives. According to the Press Service of FFA, the current change “will not impact further progressive development of the sector.” The major task for FFA under the new management will continue to be preventing forest fires, stimulate forestry processing and forest reproduction.

Background

The Federal Forestry Agency has been part of the Ministry of Natural Resources previously, but was transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture in 2008. Then on August 27, 2010, President Dmitriy Medvedev signed a government decree which made the Federal Forestry Agency an independent agency reporting directly to the Government of the Russian Federation. Viktor Maslyakov, Deputy Head of the Agency since 2009, was nominated as the Head of the “new structure”. In addition to expanded responsibilities in legislation and the implementation of the current forestry regulation, the Agency received more government financing.