International Paper participates in the creation of a timber industry working group in Russia

Saint Petersburg – 27 July 2015 – A meeting dedicated to the creation of a working group for the implementation of a sustainable forestry model in the Leningrad region took place in Saint Petersburg. The meeting was held under the leadership of the Timber Industry Union in the Leningrad region and was attended by representatives of such companies as Mayr-Melnhof Holz Efimovsky, Metsya Forest Podporozhye, Tikhvin Forestry Complex, Ikea Industry Tikhvin, International Paper, as well as representatives of the Saint Petersburg Forestry Research Institute.

Goals of the working group
The working group has been created to prepare propositions for changes in legislature in order to implement sustainable forestry model principles in the Leningrad region. The group has been formed for the purpose of executing the Concept of Forest Usage and Recovery Intensification (Roadmap) approved by the Russian Federation's Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, and the Federal Forestry Agency.

Key topics of discussion
The meeting included a presentation and discussion of a report on the assessment of efficiency of transitioning to the sustainable model of forest usage and recovery in the Leningrad region, prepared by the Green Forest Fund and commissioned by International Paper. The report includes analysis and justification of the efficiency of a transition to the sustainable forestry model. The report and the results of the research are available for all stakeholders.

Next steps
During its first meeting, the working group approved an action plan for 2015, made a decision to contact representatives of the Forestry Department in the North-West Federal District of the Natural Resources Committee in the Leningrad region, as well as the WWF, to invite them to take part in the working process. It is planned that the working group will meet on a regular basis.

Chairman of the Timber Industry Union in the Leningrad region Yuri Orlov commented: “We believe that creation of such a working group will help us to join together the efforts of the government, responsible businesses, environmental organizations and the academic community. Today such agreement should contribute to the sustainable development of both the industry and Russian forestry as a whole.”
About International Paper

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About International Paper Russia

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