

Report
on the work of the working group
«Barents Forest Sector Network» in 2016

The main objectives of the working group «Barents Forest Sector Network» (Working group) are to create necessary conditions for the development of forestry, environmental care, and wood-based industries through cooperation, mutual actions, projects and programmes within the forest sector of the Barents Region.

First meeting of the Working group chaired by the Russian Federation in BEAC was organized by Russian Federal Forestry Agency.

After consultations with forest agencies of Finland, Norway and Sweden the date of the Working group meeting was agreed - June 2, 2016 - on the margins of the V International scientific-practical conference «Innovations and technologies in forestry 2016» that took place in the Saint-Petersburg forestry research institute. Draft programme and agenda of the Working group meeting were approved by forest agencies of Finland, Norway and Sweden.

The meeting of the Working group took place on June 2 in Saint-Petersburg forestry research institute. It was attended by management and representatives of the Federal Forestry Agency, representatives of the Northern forestry research Institute, the Saint-Petersburg forestry research Institute, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, the Natural resources Institute of Finland, the International Secretariat of BEAC, the Ministry of agriculture and forestry of Finland, the Ministry of agriculture and food of Norway and the Swedish Forest Agency.

According to agenda participants discussed three blocks of issues: sustainable management of boreal forests, development of bioenergy, role of forests in climate change mitigation.

In the presentations of the Working group members were emphasized the importance of multilateral dialogue to achieve the goals, reviewed questions of development of timber industry based on sustainable forest management, discussed the prospects of increasing the use of bio-fuel produced from wood resources and experience exchange in the field of evaluating the role of forests in climate change mitigation.

After an exchange of views on key issues of the agenda, the parties agreed to prepare proposals for the development of international dialogue in the framework of the Working group and reaffirmed their interest in participating in two more events planned for the period of Russia's chairmanship in the Council of the Barents Euro-Arctic region in 2015-2017 - meeting of the Working group in the first half of 2017 in Pushkino, Moscow region and Forest forum «Adaptation of forests in the Barents region in terms of climate change. Climate policy of the

member countries of the BEAC forest sector»- in Northern Forestry Research Institute, Arkhangelskin the second half of 2017..

Federal Forestry Agency
January 2017