



EU-RUSSIA CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM
ГРАЖДАНСКИЙ ФОРУМ ЕС-РОССИЯ

To the Secretariat of the 21st Conference of the UN FCCC in Paris
Statement by the Working Group “Environment”
of the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum

Based on the articles 2, 5-8 UN FCCC and with regards to the decision of the Forum of the indigenous people on climate change (COP-6 part 1, the Hague, 2000), the Statement of Russian, Belarusian and Ukrainian NGOs on climate (St.Petersburg, 13.11.2009), the Statement of environmental NGOs (St.Petersburg, 2015), Manifest of the civil society in support of real solutions on climate (30.11.2015) and other documents we urge to include in the final COP-21 documents:

- To emphasise importance of the world forests as contributors to the mitigation of the anthropogenic influence to climate.
- To view forests as not only absorbent of the greenhouse gases, but also an important regulator of global climate change processes. In addition, forests are the ancestral habitat of indigenous peoples, who live close to nature and are the most vulnerable to climate change.
- We are unanimous in saying that large hydropower dams and nuclear energy are not a solution to address climate change and should not be supported under the new agreement. We urge governments, financial and other institutions not to include large hydropower and nuclear power stations in their initiatives for fighting climate change.

Discussed and approved at the meeting of the Working Group “Environment” of the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum in Budapest on 7-8 December 2015.

Prepared by Sergei Shapkhaev, NGO “Buryat Regional Association on Lake Baikal” (Buryatia, Russia) – member organization in the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum.

Ksenia Vakhrusheva, Working Group Coordinator

The EU-Russia Civil Society Forum was established in 2011 by non-governmental organisations as a permanent common platform. At the moment 151 NGOs from Russia and the European Union are member of the Forum. It aims at development of cooperation of civil society organisations from Russia and EU and greater participation of NGOs in the EU-Russia dialogue. The Forum has been actively involved, inter alia, in the questions of facilitation of visa regime, development of civic participation, protection of the environment and human rights, dealing with history, and civic education.