IS ILLEGAL LOGGING AND TIMBER TRADE A SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME IN THE EUROPEAN UNION?

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Illegal Logging & Forest Crime

Illegal logging and timber trade is the harvesting, transporting and selling of timber in contravention to the laws of the country of harvest or the regulations governing the functioning of the common market.

Serious organised crime: highly-organised groups; disciplined; use of violence; control of illegally sourced timber products; different levels of corruption; operating for a long period of time.
Illegal Logging in the European Union

FLEGT - Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade 2003

EUTR - European Union Timber Regulation 2013

EU Action Plan on Deforestation

EU FOREST STRATEGY
Harm to the environment and livelihoods

UNEP REPORT 2017

Most severe environmental crime in the Danube Carpathian Region

Low enforcement

Lack of scientific knowledge

High levels of corruption
Romania as a hotspot of forest crime and illegal logging

Romania stands out as a country where illegal logging and timber trade seems out of control. Despite attracting political attention higher than ever before, official reports show that timber is being illegally cut and introduced to the common market, harming valuable old-growth forests and other unique biodiversity hotspots.

Pressures from the market

Pressures from the civil society
Origins of illegal logging

Illegal logging and timber trade in Romania developed during the post-socialist land reforms, and the process was marked by the development of patron-client relations, corruption and various forms of violence.

Chaos of the restitution

Boom of the timber frontier

Patron-client relations

Roma as scapegoats
Ever-changing legal framework

UNPREDICTABLE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

TOWARDS MARKET MONOPOLY

SUMAL AND TIMBER TRACEABILITY

FEAR OF CRIMINALISATION AND PROSECUTION

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Illegal logging becomes national security threat 2016, on par with terrorism, sabotage, espionage

Turn to securitisation has unexpected consequences.

Little effect to enforcement and prosecution
ONLINE HYSTERIA AND CYBERACTIVISM

THE CONTRIBUTION OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM
Pressures from the EU

> FROM THE DEMAND SIDE

European Commission demands stricter legislation

2nd Infringement action, February 2020

Fast changes in the domestic legislation

Blanket bans perpetuate slow violence

George Iordachescu - Anthropology of Crime and Criminalisation, 7 October 2020
A new Forestry Code > increased sanctions; civil sanctions become crimes; seizing vehicles and imprisonment

Tech4wildlife: monitoring apps and data-bases as the most efficient tool to fight forest crime
From Criminalisation to Enforcement

A LANDSCAPE OF FOREST CRIMES BUT WITH NO CRIMINALS

FROM LOW PROSECUTION TO SCIENTIFIC UNCERTAINTY IN THE COURT

TOWARDS A DEDICATED INSTITUTION FOR FOREST CRIME INVESTIGATION
Discussion

FROM SLOW DISPOSSESSION TO SLOW VIOLENCE

ABSENCE OF THE SOCIAL IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT FOREST CRIME

ILLEGAL LOGGING AS FORM OF RESISTANCE
Thank you!

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