



EU Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT)



The EU FLEGT Action Plan

Growing concern about illegal logging led to an EU Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade, which proposes supply-side and demand-side measures to combat illegal logging and associated trade, including:

- 👉 Development co-operation
- 👉 Measures to control the trade in illegally-harvested timber.
- 👉 Green public procurement
- 👉 Private sector initiatives
- 👉 Financing and investment



Partnership agreements

The FLEGT Action Plan aims to build partnerships with wood-producing countries to combat illegal logging and the associated trade.

👉 Partnerships will emphasise shared responsibility, embrace development co-operation and governance reform in producing countries, and be reinforced by measures to end imports of illegal timber into the EU.



Development co-operation

Development co-operation has an important role to play in supporting the reforms to governance needed to tackle the problem in producer countries. The FLEGT Action Plan emphasises:

- 👉 Equitable and just solutions
- 👉 Systems to track and verify the legality of timber
- 👉 Enhanced transparency in the forest sector
- 👉 Capacity building (govt., civil society and private sector)
- 👉 Policy reform



The trade in timber

Development co-operation will be supported by measures to reduce demand for illegally harvested timber

☞ The Action Plan proposes voluntary agreements between the EU and partner countries to restrict trade only to legally harvested timber.

☞ The partnerships will be supported by an import licencing scheme to ensure only legal timber imports enter the EU.

☞ The licensing scheme would give Community customs authorities the means to stop illegal timber exported from partner countries at the EU border.



State of play

- 👉 **Import licensing scheme:** draft legislation to implement the licensing scheme has been proposed by the Commission and is currently being considered by EU Member States.
- 👉 **Partnership agreements:** Preliminary consultations are ongoing with wood producing countries, and a request for a mandate to negotiate partnership agreements has been submitted to Member States.



Demand-side measures (I)

Partnerships blending development co-operation and trade will be supplemented by additional measures focused on:

- 👉 Public procurement
- 👉 Complementary private sector initiatives
- 👉 Measures to ensure responsible investments



Demand-side measures (II)

👉 **Public procurement:** A process is ongoing to spread lessons from existing green procurement policies throughout the EU.

➤ Very influential in leading the market.

👉 **Private sector partnership:** An innovative partnership with the private sector aims to eradicate illegal timber from EU importers' supply chains.

➤ EU private sector will work with developing country suppliers, to help them adapt to the changing European market.



The next steps

- 👉 Work with Council to finalise the import licensing legislation, and request for a negotiating mandate.
- 👉 Continue and deepen consultations with potential partner countries.
- 👉 Develop a joint work programme with Member States, and identify areas where Member States can contribute with resources, technical expertise and knowledge.
- 👉 Continue with assessment of additional legislative options.



Thank you

For further information see:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/theme/forest/initiative/index_en.htm