



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

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The EU FLEGT Action Plan

The Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) sets out how the EU aims to work in partnership with wood-producing countries to combat illegal logging and reduce the trade in illegally-harvested timber.

Combating illegal logging and the associated trade is a priority for the EU following the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)



A cross-sectoral approach

The FLEGT Action Plan proposes actions in a number of different areas, including:

- ➔ Trade in timber
- ➔ Development co-operation
- ➔ Public procurement
- ➔ Private sector initiatives
- ➔ Financing and investment
- ➔ Conflict timber



Partnership approach

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

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



The trade in timber

Consumer countries must also play an important role in reducing demand for illegally harvested timber

☞ A draft Regulation to implement a voluntary FLEGT licensing scheme is in the process of being finalised.

☞ Extended Impact Assessment of the licensing scheme has been completed.

☞ Scoping work on the use of additional legislative options to support FLEGT is being undertaken. The Commission will report to Council on this in 2005.



Partnership agreements

The Action Plan and the licensing scheme will be implemented through partnerships with wood producing countries.

👉 A rolling programme of joint Commission-Member State missions to potential partner countries is ongoing. Consultations so far with Ghana, DRC, Malaysia and Indonesia.

👉 High-level political contacts taking place to establish dialogue on FLEGT with key producing countries.



Development co-operation

Development co-operation will be used to support producer-country efforts to combat illegal logging:

- ☞ Indonesia pilot programme ready for implementation.
- ☞ Decision expected soon on resources for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.
- ☞ Tropical Forest Budget Line projects due to be selected in October.
- ☞ Finalising further support to regional FLEG processes.



Public procurement

Public procurement will be used to offer incentives for good practice

👉 A Handbook on Green Public Procurement, which provides guidance on how to source legal timber, has recently been published.



Private sector initiatives

The private sector has a key role to play in combating illegal logging

- 👉 The Commission has facilitated a dialogue on FLEGT with European industry federations.
- 👉 This has helped the private sector to organise itself around the objectives of the FLEGT action plan.



Finance and investment

Investment and lending should not encourage illegal logging

- ☞ This part of the Action Plan requires further attention.
- ☞ Money laundering will be examined in the assessment of additional legislative options.



Conflict timber

Profits from natural resources, including timber, are driving armed conflicts

- ➡ Commission has been working to ensure forests are addressed in the Liberia and DRC peace processes.
- ➡ Need to consider if, and how, this issue can be addressed in a more systematic way.



The next steps

- ☞ Work in Council of Ministers to finalise the proposed Regulation.
- ☞ Continue with joint missions and consultations with potential partner countries.
- ☞ Continue with stakeholder consultations.
- ☞ Select budget line projects, and programme development co-operation funds.
- ☞ Identify areas where Member States can contribute with resources, technical expertise and knowledge.



For further information

👉 Visit

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

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Thank you