

Tackling deforestation and illegal logging
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PROGRESS MADE AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE ACTION

EU FLEGT Action Plan Reviews



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The EU FLEGT Action Plan

- Joint endeavor to combat illegal logging & associated trade
- Brings all stakeholders to dialogue, building synergies between development, environment, trade and other policies
- Blends measures & processes in producing and consumer countries targeting the availability of, and demand for illegal timber with a particular focus on:
 - Governance, Capacity building, Legality verification
 - PPP, Private Sector initiatives, Financing & investment
 - Voluntary Partnership Agreements & EU legislation
 - International cooperation, Existing legislation, Conflict timber



FLEGT Action Plan reviews

- [ECA Special Report on support to producing countries \(2015\)](#)
 - Council Conclusions
 - EP Resolution
- [Independent evaluation of the FLEGT AP \(2016\)](#)
 - Council Conclusions
 - Commission Staff Working Document
- [EUTR review \(2016\)](#)
 - Commission Staff Working Document & Report
 - Council Conclusions



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REVIEWS: FLEGT STRENGTHS

- Innovation: hard- & soft law measures, trade agreements, development cooperation, stakeholder engagement
- Sustainable changes : forest governance improvements & reduced demand for illegal timber
- VPAs: 6 implementing, 1 Licensing & 9 under negotiation
- EUTR → incentivise responsible sourcing policies & VPAs uptake
- PPP: >80% of EU MS → positive effect on the market
- Problem profile raised: bilateral dialogues (BCM), legislative reforms (US), INTERPOL, PPP in producing countries



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REVIEWS: FLEGT SHORTCOMINGS

- Weak planning & monitoring
- Coordination inefficiencies
- VPAs: complex, resource-intensive & variable political commitment in partner countries
- Private sector insufficiently engaged
- Work on Financing & Investment not extensive
- Context changes: drivers of Deforestation, declining role of EU in global timber trade, emerging markets





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COMMON RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Retain** FLEGT design & pillars; keep high on international agenda; intensify dialogue with key producing & consumer countries;
- **Streamline & coordinate** action across policies and actors also in view of important challenges e.g. SDGs, deforestation, Paris A;
- Improve **efficiency & effectiveness** :wise use of resources, results-oriented management, strengthened planning, improved monitoring & reporting, enhanced communication;
- Increase role of **Private Sector** and enhance synergies;
- Strengthen implementation & enforcement of **EUTR** and align better with VPA requirements;



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COMMON RECOMMENDATIONS on VPAs

- **Adjust VPA implementation** on the basis of capacities, willingness & trade/strategic significance of partner countries;
- More flexible approach to producing country **support** where VPA implementation is less feasible;
- Phased approach to **VPA implementation**: well-defined actions & funding, realistic timeframes and milestones;
- Enhance engagement of **Private Sector** in VPA negotiations & implementation;
- Address **informal/domestic market**;



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Next steps

- **Planning:** Work plan for FLEGT implementation with clear objectives and deadlines;
- **Implementation:** Rationalise & coordinate action across policies and actors also in view of important challenges e.g. SDGs, deforestation, Paris Agreement, trade flow shifts;
- **Monitoring:** system with full progress report tracking of FLEGT-related expenditure, impacts;



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Work Plan

- Joint Work plan to better establish priorities and monitor EU FLEGT Action Plan, not a new policy.
- Under development:
 - Working paper on current thinking of Commission services (ENV and DEVCO mainly).
 - Discussions with other Commission services and MS on going.
 - Stakeholders' inputs welcome (Conference, other)
- Joint Work Plan to be produced and validated within EU institutions



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Thank you

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