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THE FOREST LAW ENFORCEMENT
GOVERNANCE AND TRADE PORTAL
OF THE EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE

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European Union FLEGT policy developments

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The “EU Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan”

FLEGT Action Plan (adopted in 2003) aims at addressing illegal logging and related trade

Combines supply and demand measures; creating market incentives for trade in guaranteed legal timber; using and expanding existing mechanisms and adding new ones.

EU FLEGT Action Plan Coordinates supply and demand side measures for timber

- **Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPA) with timber producing countries;**
- **Legislation against the trade in illegal timber in the EU:**
- **Promote Member State public procurement policies**
- **Support private sector initiatives**

Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA)

- **Increase trade in guaranteed legal timber between FLEGT countries and the EU**
- **Set up control and licensing systems to provide a Government-backed guarantee of legality**
- **Provide financial, technical and institutional support to improve forest governance**
- **Generate demand for legally harvested timber on the EU market/create market incentives (Due Diligence Regulation & public procurement & promotion)**

Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA)

Definition of legality – the standard (stakeholder engagement)

Verification – checks that FMU operations meet the standard

Chain of custody – tracking products from FMU to export

Licensing – official evidence that each export shipment is legal

Independent monitoring – to maintain system credibility

Market monitoring – effects of FLEGT on the EU market

Management structure

building on systems existing in partner countries, providing
acceptable uniformity between systems, enabling consistent
evaluation of different systems
based on **Principles** & **Criteria**

The proposed legislation against Illegal timber

- the Due Diligence Regulation requires traders to minimize the risk that they trade in illegal timber;
- If challenged traders should provide information demonstrating compliance with ‘applicable legislation’ in timber producing countries;
- ‘applicable legislation’ defined in line with the FLEGT definition

Legal as in FLEGT, what does it mean?

Definition to reflect the three pillars of Sustainable Forest Management and cover:

- **The granting of legal rights to harvest**
- **Compliance with forest management regulations including**
- **relevant environmental and labour laws.**
- **Taxes, fees and levies**
- **Respect for other parties tenure/use rights**
- **Trade and export procedures**

Basic premises proposed Due Diligence Regulation

Objective: minimise the risk of illegally harvested timber sold on the EU market by requiring 'due diligence' from 'operators'.

'Due diligence' procedures aimed at avoiding trading in illegally harvested timber

Product scope: all timber products, be it imported or domestically produced

Point of control: first placing on the EU market (importers; primary producers)

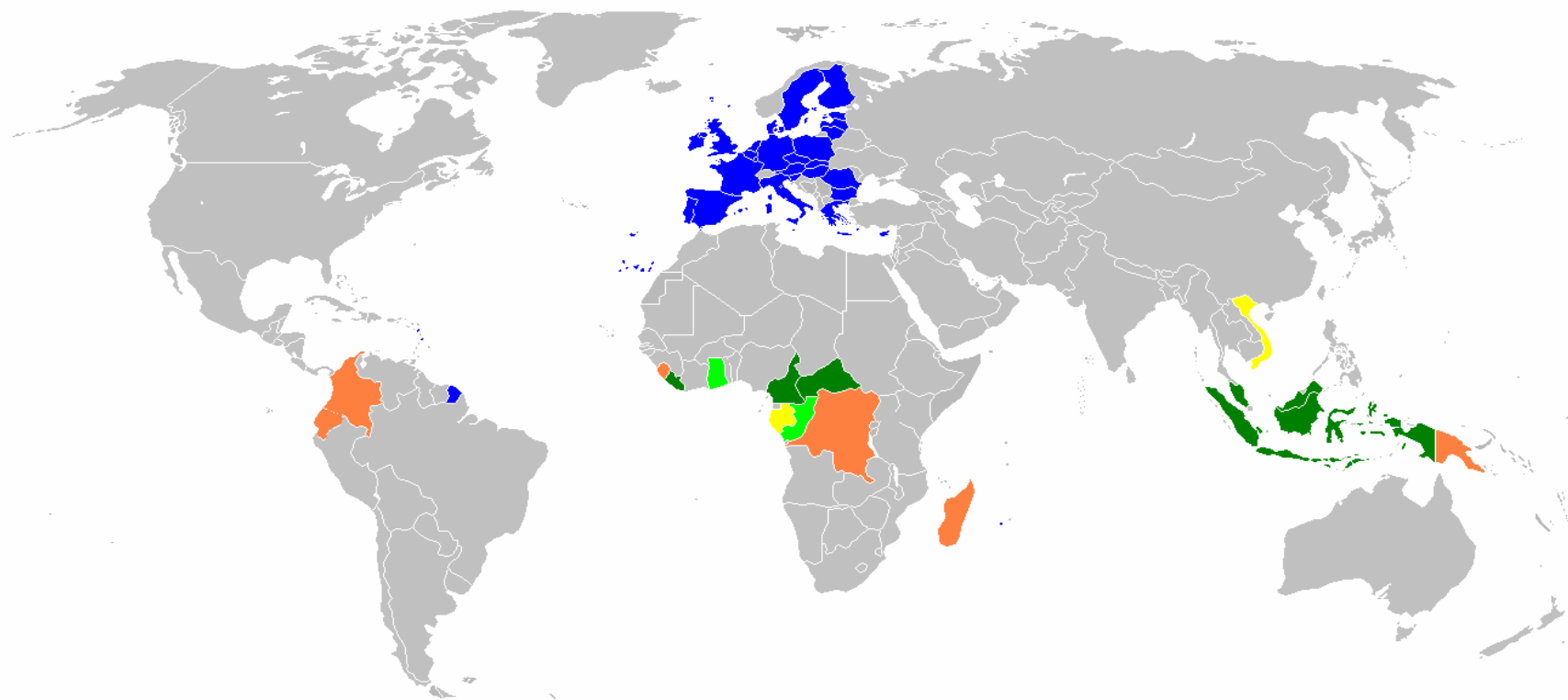
Legality: defined on the basis of the legislation of the country of harvest

Presumption of legality: FLEGT/CITES timber

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 Information  Pre-negotiation  Negotiation  Implementation

Expected effects

- **Legality a minimum requirement for selling timber in Europe;**
- **Increased demand for guaranteed legal and certified sustainable timber and timber products;**
- **Reduced market opportunities for timber products from source perceived as high risk;**
- **FLEGT a key mechanism to improve the position of timber and timber products on the European market**

China, EU and FLEGT

- China and EU established a Bilateral Coordination Mechanism (BCM) providing a framework for policy dialogue and joint activities;
- Workplan of BCM under construction
- The Asia FLEGT program (jointly implemented by EC and European Forest Institute) will support the implementation of the BCM workplan



30 January 2009

The European Forest Institute in Asia

- an EU institute with headquarters in Finland
- In the process of opening a regional Asia office in Malaysia
- **Objective: support the implementation in Asia of the EU FLEGT Action**
- Joint implementation by the EC and the EFI
- Building on FLEGT work with Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam
- Focus on Mekong countries, China and India

EU FLEGT Facility supported by



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