

**JOINT STATEMENT
BETWEEN
THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA AND
THE EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR TRADE
ON
THE CONCLUSION OF THE NEGOTIATION FOR A
FOREST LAW ENFORCEMENT, GOVERNANCE AND TRADE (FLEGT) –
VOLUNTARY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (VPA)**

We, the Minister of Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia and the European Commissioner for Trade, met in Jakarta on May 4th, 2011. We welcome the conclusion of negotiation of a Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) and jointly state that:

1. We reiterate our common understanding that the implementation of the FLEGT-VPA between the Republic of Indonesia and the European Union will make a substantial contribution to address the problem of illegal logging and will contribute to the promotion of legally harvested and sustainable timber in Indonesia, while helping to improve the attractiveness of Indonesia timber products in the European Union market.
2. We note with satisfaction that the initialling of the draft FLEGT-VPA by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia and the Head of Delegation of the European Union to Indonesia on May 4th 2011 concludes the successful negotiation of the FLEGT-VPA. In this regard the Republic of Indonesia and the European Union will - each in accordance with their own procedures – start the process for the signature and ratification of the FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement immediately.
3. We hereby endorse the commitments made at the 3rd FLEGT-VPA Senior Officials Meeting held in Brussels on April 15, 2011, among others: the signing of the Agreement by October 2011, the appointment of the Director General of Forest Utilization of the Ministry of Forestry along with the Ambassador/Head of the European Commission Delegation for Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam in Jakarta as the contact points for the exchange of information and communication between both sides and the establishment of a Joint Preparatory Committee to prepare the implementation of the Agreement prior to the entry into force and the development of a Joint Implementation Strategy.

Done in duplicate in the English language on the 4th of May 2011 in Jakarta

H. E. Zulkifli Hasan
Minister of Forestry, of
the Republic of Indonesia

H. E. Karel de Gucht
European Commissioner for Trade