



**EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) and FLEGT action plan:
Assessment of the impacts and implications for policies**

21 April 2015, 13:15-16:00

European Parliament, Brussels, meeting room JAN 4Q2

Background

In May 2003 the European Commission presented the EU **Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT)** Action Plan. This marked the beginning of a process by which the EU aims to develop and implement measures to address illegal logging and related trade. The primary means of implementing the Plan is through **Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs)** and the **EU Timber Regulation (EUTR)**, the two parts of the FLEGT action plan which are meant to reinforce each other. VPAs are bilateral trade agreements developed between the EU and timber producing partner countries. These countries are initially engaged in the process on a voluntary basis and afterwards, if ratified, become legally-binding. The EUTR further reinforces these endeavours by requiring importers to demonstrate “due diligence” and prohibits imports of illegally harvested timber or timber products. The EUTR has been in force since March 2013.

In 2015, FLEGT has been in force for 12 years, and EUTR for two years. What has been the experience of these policies? How successful have they been in tackling the illegal timber trade, and what has been their impact? What are the lessons learned, and possible recommendations for further actions?

In order to address the above questions, European Forest Institute (EFI) is coordinating a policy study on the topic. The study provides an assessment on the following questions:

- What does the scientific evidence say about the impacts of FLEGT, EUTR and similar other policies?
- What are the implications from the experience so far? Have the policies been effective for reaching the objectives? What has been achieved? Are there indications for needs to change policies or new policy actions?

This event is not an official part of the ongoing European Commission FLEGT and EUTR evaluation process, but seeks to contribute to the process by helping to synthesise the science-input and by supporting science-policy dialogue on the topic.

Programme

13:15-14:00 Networking lunch

(Copies of the EFI policy study will be available, together with the opportunity to discuss with the study Coordinator)

14:00 Welcome

Mr. Lauri Hetemäki, Assistant Director, European Forest Institute

Welcome from the Chair

Mr. Paul Brannen, MEP

14:05 EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) and FLEGT action plan: Assessment of the impacts and policy implications

Mr. Ragnar Jonsson, Senior Researcher

Questions and Answers (5')

14:25 EUTR and FLEGT – a view of a timber using company

Mr. Anders Hildeman, Global Forestry Manager, IKEA

Questions and Answers (5')

14:45 EUTR and FLEGT - European Commission perspective

Mr. Hans Stielstra, Head of Unit, DG ENV Global Sustainability, Trade and Multilateral Agreements

Questions and Answers (5')

15:05 FLEGT in action – experiences from practice

Mr. Jussi Viitanen, Head of the FLEGT & REDD Unit, EU FLEGT Facility

Questions and Answers (5')

15:25 Discussion

15:50-16:00 Concluding remarks

Mr. Paul Brannen, MEP