

EU-China Bilateral Coordination Mechanism on Forest Law Enforcement and Governance

1. Establishment of a Bilateral Co-Ordination Mechanism

- 1.1. The European Commission and the State Forestry Administration of the People's Republic of China have agreed to establish a bilateral co-ordination mechanism on Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG).
- 1.2. The Bilateral Co-Ordination Mechanism will consist of representatives of the People's Republic of China on the one hand and of the European Commission and interested EU Member States on the other. The Environment Directorate-General and the State Forestry Administration will associate other departments as necessary in order to ensure integration of FLEG in EU and Chinese policies on development, trade & customs and other policies.
- 1.3. It will develop a multi-annual work plan as well as operating modalities.
- 1.4. The location of meetings will in principle alternate between Europe and China with the host responsible for chairing and preparing draft minutes.
- 1.5. The frequency of meetings shall be one per year. This may be adjusted by mutual agreement.
- 1.6. Inputs and or participation may be invited from experts from third countries, scientists and policy researchers, the private sector, civil society representatives or other stakeholders, as agreed by both sides.

2. Objectives of the Bilateral Co-Ordination Mechanism

- 2.1. The overall objective is to contribute to the reduction of illegal logging and associated trade globally in order to promote sustainable development – environmentally,

socially and economically – and in accordance with the principle of scientific outlook on development.

2.2. The Bilateral Co-Ordination Mechanism will be a forum :

2.2.1. for policy dialogue;

2.2.2. for the exchange of information on activities of the two sides concerning forest law enforcement and governance and actions to combat illegal logging and associated trade;

2.2.3. for the consideration of possible shared approaches in combating illegal logging and associated trade.

3. The Bilateral Co-Ordination Mechanism will :

3.1. Explore opportunities for the EU and China to develop a shared approach towards legality verification schemes for timber and timber products implemented by timber exporting countries, including in the context of FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreements.

3.2. Exchange information and where relevant co-ordinate training and other activities of the European Commission and China involving third countries, in particular timber-producing countries, where such countries have requested this. This may include information on codes of conduct for European or Chinese businesses operating in timber-producing countries.

3.3. Exchange information on private and public procurement policies for forest products from legal and sustainable sources and seek to find ways to promote trade in timber products from legal and sustainable sources.

3.4. Facilitate business to business contacts between EU and Chinese private sector operators as well as in timber-producing countries, *inter alia* with a view to increasing information on the supply chains of timber products.

3.5. Exchange information on forest certification schemes.

3.6. Identify policy and technical research priorities and co-ordinate relevant bilateral activities.

3.7. Exchange information on forest governance in the context of international processes and forums such as UNFF, ITTO, FAO, UNFCCC as well as regional initiatives including the Asia-Pacific Network on Forest Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management.

3.8. Other activities of mutual interest.

4. Implementation support

4.1. Both sides will allocate resources to the implementation of activities under paragraph 3, principally by using funding opportunities under the bilateral, regional and

thematic development assistance programmes managed by the European Commission.

- 4.2. In agreement with the State Forestry Administration of China, the European Commission will award an assignment to one or more experts to formulate a proposal for a detailed multi-annual work plan. The assignment shall be carried out in close contact with the European Commission, the State Forestry Administration and interested EU Member States and through consultation of key stakeholders in Europe and in China. The assignment shall be completed by March 2009.

5. Legal aspects

- 5.1. The establishment of the Bilateral Co-Ordination Mechanism does not entail any obligations under international law.

These terms of reference were agreed and signed in Brussels on 30 January 2009.

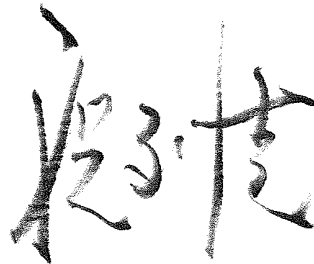
FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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