

# FLEGT Licensing and Public Summary of the Closure Report on Advancement of VPA Implementation



15 March 2016

Dear colleague,

We would like to update you about our progress implementing the FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement to combat illegal logging and foster good forest governance.

The Joint Working Group met on 27 January 2016 to review the Indonesia-EU Action Plan on Advancement of VPA Implementation. The Group, which has representatives of all VPA stakeholders, found significant progress towards completing the Plan. We are happy to report that timber imports by Indonesia are now captured by Indonesia's timber legality assurance system – the SVLK. Another important step forward is the appointment of the company PT. SUCOFINDO SBU LSI as the independent periodic evaluator of the SVLK.

We have one main outstanding issue to resolve prior to FLEGT licensing. The issue relates to the current version of the new export regulation published by the Indonesian Ministry of Trade in October

2015. This regulation allows exporters of furniture covered by the Agreement to choose to export without legality verification under the SVLK. Both parties to the VPA have been working hard to understand the impact of the trade regulation on the VPA and to resolve the issue. We are optimistic that a solution will be found. In addition to this issue, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry has yet to publish new SVLK ministerial and implementing regulations.

Against this background we are optimistic that FLEGT licensing can begin soon, though not as early as 1 April 2016 as some had anticipated.

On behalf of the parties to the Indonesia-EU FLEGT VPA, we thank you for your support for the VPA in these final stages towards issuing what could become the world's first FLEGT license.

To read the public summary of the Joint Working Group Closure Report on Advancement of VPA Implementation, [click here](#). For more information on the Indonesia-EU VPA and the decisions of the JIC, visit the websites of [SVLK](#) or the [EU Delegation](#).

Best regards,

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**H.E. Vincent Guérend**

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