

EU adopts Regulation to recognize FLEGT Licences from Indonesia



23 August 2016

Dear colleague,

We would like to update you about our progress in implementing the Indonesia-EU FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) to combat illegal logging and foster good forest governance.

First, we are pleased to inform you that on 18 August 2016, the European Commission published a [‘delegated regulation’](#), which amends the EU FLEGT Regulation to recognise Indonesian FLEGT licences.

The amendments will alter the EU’s FLEGT Regulation in order to include Indonesia, list the products covered by the VPA and include information on Indonesia’s FLEGT licensing authorities.

Having passed through the EU Parliament and EU Council without objection, the amendments reflect the EU’s acceptance that Indonesia’s timber legality assurance system adequately addresses VPA requirements.

This news confirms that Indonesia will be the first country in the world to issue FLEGT licences.

The amendments to the FLEGT Regulation will enter into application 90 days after their publication, on 15 November 2016, making this the earliest date that Indonesia could begin to issue FLEGT licences.

The Indonesia-EU Joint Implementation Committee will meet on 15 September and will set the date for FLEGT licensing to begin. The first FLEGT-licensed products from Indonesia will therefore reach the EU market this year.

Competent Authorities of the EU's Member States and EU operators have been preparing to receive FLEGT-licensed products from Indonesia.

FLEGT-licensed timber products will automatically meet the requirements of the EU Timber Regulation, which prohibits operators in the EU from placing illegally harvested timber and products derived from illegal timber on the EU market. Once FLEGT licensing begins, any products listed in the VPA's annex on product scope will no longer be permitted to enter the EU market unless they are FLEGT-licensed.

We therefore expect FLEGT licensing to facilitate trade in verified legal timber products from Indonesia to the EU.

When the Joint Implementation Committee meets in September, it will also agree on a list of activities through which the EU and Indonesia will oversee the continual implementation of Indonesia's timber legality assurance system and the wider VPA impact, including the market improvement of Indonesia's FLEGT-License timber products in the EU market.

We are also pleased to share a [short document](#), which updates information presented in the first annual report on the implementation of the Indonesia-EU Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA), which the VPA Joint Implementation Committee published in May 2015. The new document includes the latest data on Indonesia's rollout of the timber legality assurance system (SVLK).

For more information on the Indonesia-EU VPA and the decisions of the JIC, visit the websites of Indonesia's [Ministry of Environment and](#)

[Forestry](#) or the [EU Delegation to Indonesia](#), the [EU FLEGT Facility](#) and the [Multistakeholder Forestry Programme](#).

Best regards,

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