

Indonesia and EU celebrate three years of licensing of legal timber, under their Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Partnership

2 December 2019

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, promote legal timber trade and foster good forest governance.

On 18 November 2019, the Indonesia-EU VPA Joint Implementation Committee (JIC) held its 7th meeting in Jakarta. This meeting was held three years after Indonesia started issuing FLEGT licences to timber exports to the EU.

The past three years have yielded considerable results. As the Annual Report 2018 shows, in that year Indonesia issued 36,491 FLEGT licences for shipments of timber products exported to the EU, worth EUR 983 million. By the end of 2018, a total of 4,477 forest-based enterprises and industries were certified by Indonesia's national timber legality assurance system (*i.e.* 'Sistem Verifikasi Legalitas Kayu'), known by its acronym 'SVLK'.

We continuously improved FLEGT licensing procedures and practices, ensuring that trade in FLEGT-licensed timber improved significantly for both exporters and importers. We learned valuable lessons throughout this period, which Indonesia and the EU actively share with other countries.

We discussed at the JIC the results of [the second Periodic Evaluation](#), which kicked off in May 2019 with a public consultation on the methodology, approach and priorities. The Periodic Evaluation is an independent evaluation that provides assurance of the functioning of the timber legality assurance system in Indonesia. We agreed to the findings of the second Periodic Evaluation and used these to develop our [joint action plan for 2020](#). The plan will focus on ensuring that SVLK certification and FLEGT licensing work for all operators (especially SMEs), strengthening supply chain control, supporting effective law enforcement and jointly engaging in market outreach.

As Indonesia and the EU continue to implement the VPA and continually improve the SVLK, we will provide further updates.

Best regards,

Dr. Agus Justianto

H.E. Vincent Piket