



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

**PRESS RELEASE**

## **Environment: EU opens doors to Indonesia's licensing scheme for exports of verified legal timber**

Brussels, 18 August 2016

**The Commission has amended the [EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Regulation \(FLEGT\)](#) to recognise Indonesia's licensing scheme for exports of verified legal timber to the EU.**

One third (by value) of the EU's tropical timber imports comes from Indonesia and the EU buys 11% of timber products and paper exported from the country.

The delegated regulation amends the FLEGT Regulation to include Indonesia and its Licensing Information Unit under the list of 'Partner countries and their designated licensing authorities'. It now also includes Indonesian products covered by the FLEGT licensing scheme in the list of 'Timber products to which the FLEGT licensing scheme applies only in relation to the corresponding partner countries'.

The delegated regulation will enter into application on 15 November, making this the earliest date that Indonesia could begin to issue FLEGT licences. The EU-Indonesia Joint Implementation Committee will announce the date for FLEGT licensing to begin when it meets on 15 September.

The FLEGT [Voluntary Partnership Agreement](#) has strengthened forest governance in Indonesia by increasing transparency, accountability and stakeholder participation in decisions about forests. In 2002, just 20% of Indonesia's timber was legal. Today, over 90% of Indonesia's timber exports are from independently audited factories and forests.

## **Background**

Illegal logging is a global problem with significant negative economic, environmental and social impact. In economic terms illegal logging results in lost revenues and other foregone benefits. In environmental terms, illegal logging is associated with deforestation, climate change and loss of biodiversity. In social terms, illegal logging can be linked to conflicts over land and resources, the disempowerment of local and indigenous communities, corruption and armed conflicts. Illegal activities also undermine the efforts of responsible operators by making available cheaper but illegal timber and timber products in the market place.

For more information:

[Link to the delegated regulation](#)

[Illegal logging/FLEGT Action Plan](#)

Contacts:

- BRIVIO Enrico +32 2 29 56172
- PETSIA Iris +32 2 29 93321