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Agricultural Situation

FLEGT regulation adopted - State of the Voluntary Partnership Agreements

2006

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Report Highlights:

The European Commission had adopted the regulation on the establishment of a FLEGT licensing scheme for imports of timber into the European Community.

Formal negotiations on Voluntary Partnership Agreements have not yet started, however initial discussions have taken place with several African and Asian countries.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Brussels USEU [BE2]
[E3]

The EU regulation 2173/2005 on the establishment of a FLEGT licensing scheme for imports of timber into the European Community was adopted in December 2005. This regulation shall be binding in its entirety and be directly applicable in all Member States.

The European Commission has not yet started formal negotiations on partnership agreements, but initial discussions have taken place with Ghana, Gabon, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo-Brazzaville, Malaysia and Indonesia. Substantial dialogue and consultation are now underway in Ghana, Cameroon, Malaysia and Indonesia. These consultations are being supported by EU bilateral aid agencies: the UK in Ghana, Germany in Cameroon and the Netherlands in Malaysia. Work is due to start later in 2006 in Congo-Brazzaville and Gabon, with the support of France. The Commission is supporting the consultative process in Indonesia. These processes will in due course fold into more formal negotiations on partnership agreements.

The FLEGT licensing scheme applies only to imports of wood products from partner countries, and on import of certain timber products. The licensing scheme will cover all species imported into the EU from a partner country. The products currently include roundwood, sleepers, sawnwood, plywood and veneer; however in agreement with partner countries, the scope of this list could be extended.

Timber products to which the FLEGT licensing scheme applies irrespective of the partner country:

HS heading	Description
4403	Wood in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared
4406	Railway or tramway sleepers (cross-ties) of wood
4407	Wood sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed, of a thickness exceeding 6 mm
4407	Sheets for veneering (including those obtained by slicing laminated wood) for plywood or for other similar laminated wood and other wood sawn lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed
4412	Plywood, veneered panels and similar laminated wood

To read the full regulation on FLEGT go to: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2005/l_347/l_34720051230en00010006.pdf

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