Basic information

2018/0272(NLE) NLE - Non-legislative enactments Decision	Procedure completed
EU/Vietnam Voluntary Partnership Agreement: forest law enforcement, governance and trade Accompanying procedure 2018/0272M(NLE) **Subject** 6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations 6.30.02 Financial and technical cooperation and assistance **Geographical area** Vietnam	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
INTA International Trade	HAUTALA Heidi (Verts /ALE)	29/08/2018
	Shadow rapporteur PROUST Franck (PPE) ARENA Maria (S&D) ZAHRADIL Jan (ECR) LALONDE Patricia (ALDE)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
DEVE Development	ZAHRADIL Jan (ECR)	16/11/2018

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Agriculture and Fisheries	3686	2019-04-15

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Environment	VELLA Karmenu

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
03/07/2018	Preparatory document	COM(2018)0515	Summary
09/10/2018	Legislative proposal published	10861/2018	Summary
25/10/2018	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/02/2019	Vote in committee		
22/02/2019	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A8-0083/2019	Summary
11/03/2019	Debate in Parliament		
12/03/2019	Decision by Parliament	T8-0140/2019	Summary
12/03/2019	Results of vote in Parliament		
15/04/2019	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
15/04/2019	End of procedure in Parliament		
05/06/2019	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2018/0272(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legislative instrument	Decision
Amendments and repeals	Accompanying procedure 2018/0272M(NLE)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 207-p4 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p7 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 207-p3 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p6a
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	INTA/8/13994

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE627.758	19/12/2018	
Committee opinion	DEVE	PE630.496	25/01/2019	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A8-0083/2019	22/02/2019	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T8-0140/2019	12/03/2019	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	10861/2018	09/10/2018	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	10877/2018	09/10/2018	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2018)0514	03/07/2018	
Preparatory document	COM(2018)0515	03/07/2018	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2019/0854
OJ L 147 05.06.2019, p. 0001

EU/Vietnam Voluntary Partnership Agreement: forest law enforcement, governance and trade

2018/0272(NLE) - 09/10/2018 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to approve the Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on forest law enforcement, governance and trade, on behalf of the Union.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the Council can adopt the act only if the European Parliament has approved it.

BACKGROUND: in May 2003 the Commission adopted a communication to the European Parliament and to the Council which called for measures to address illegal logging by developing voluntary partnership agreements with timber-producing countries. Council conclusions on the EU action plan were adopted in October 2003 and the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the subject on 7 July 2005.

The **action plan** on forest law enforcement, governance and trade (FLEGT), endorsed by the Council in 2003, proposes a set of measures, including support for timber-producing countries, multilateral collaboration to tackle trade in illegal timber, support for private-sector initiatives, and measures to discourage investment in activities that encourage illegal logging.

In 2005 the Council authorised the Commission to negotiate FLEGT partnership agreements with timber-producing countries. The Commission entered into negotiations with Vietnam in 2010. The Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the EU and Vietnam, signed subject to its conclusion at a later date, must now be approved.

CONTENT: the draft Council decision aims to approve **the Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on forest law enforcement, governance and trade,** on behalf of the Union.

The objective of the Agreement is to provide a legal framework aimed at ensuring that all imports into the Union from Vietnam of timber and timber products covered by the Agreement have been legally produced.

The Agreement:

- establishes the framework, institutions and systems for the **timber legality assurance** system for the FLEGT licensing scheme ;
- sets out the framework for **monitoring compliance** and for independent evaluation of the system;
- includes a clear commitment by Vietnam to develop legislation to ensure that timber imported in Vietnam has been legally harvested in compliance with the applicable legislation in the country of harvest;
- establishes a **mechanism for dialogue and cooperation** between the EU and Vietnam on the FLEGT licensing scheme, through a joint implementation committee;
- establishes principles of stakeholder participation, social safeguards, accountability and transparency, and mechanisms for complaints on, monitoring of and reporting on implementation of the Agreement;
- makes provision for **import controls at the EU's borders,** as provided for in Regulation (EC) No 2173/2005 on the FLEGT licensing scheme and Regulation (EC) No 1024/2008 laying down detailed measures for implementing it.

The European Commission will represent the Union within the joint implementation committee set up pursuant to the Agreement. Member States may participate in meetings of the committee as members of the Union delegation.

EU/Vietnam Voluntary Partnership Agreement: forest law enforcement, governance and trade

2018/0272(NLE) - 03/07/2018 - Preparatory document

PURPOSE: to conclude, on behalf of the Union, the voluntary partnership Agreement between the European Union and Vietnam on forest law enforcement, governance and trade.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: in May 2003, the Commission adopted a communication to the European Parliament and to the Council entitled 'Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT): Proposal for an EU Action Plan' which called for measures to address illegal logging by developing voluntary partnership Agreements with timber producing countries.

In 2005, the Council authorised the Commission to negotiate FLEGT partnership agreements with timber-producing countries. The Commission entered into negotiations with Vietnam in 2010.

In accordance with a Council Decision, the voluntary partnership Agreement between the EU and Vietnam on forest law enforcement, governance and trade was signed, subject to its conclusion at a later date.

It is now necessary to approve the Agreement on behalf of the European Union.

CONTENT: the present proposal calls on the Council to adopt the decision to approve, on behalf of the Union, the voluntary partnership Agreement between the European Union and Viet Nam on forest law enforcement, governance and trade.

In particular, the voluntary partnership Agreement between the EU and Vietnam:

- establishes the framework, institutions and systems for the timber legality assurance system for the FLEGT licensing scheme;
- sets out the framework for monitoring compliance and for independent evaluation of the system;
- includes a clear commitment by Vietnam to develop legislation to ensure that timber imported in Vietnam has been legally harvested in compliance with the applicable legislation in the country of harvest;
- strengthens forest governance and law enforcement and, by means of the FLEGT licensing scheme, will reassure the EU market that timber exported from Vietnam comes from legally harvested timber;
- establishes a mechanism for dialogue and cooperation between the EU and Vietnam on the FLEGT licensing scheme, via a joint implementation committee;
- establishes principles of stakeholder participation, social safeguards, accountability and transparency, and mechanisms for complaints on, monitoring of and reporting on implementation of the Agreement;
- makes provision for **import controls** at the EU's borders.

EU/Vietnam Voluntary Partnership Agreement: forest law enforcement, governance and trade

2018/0272(NLE) - 12/03/2019 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 632 votes to 14 with 23 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on forest law enforcement, governance and trade.

Parliament gave its consent to conclusion of the agreement. It also adopted a non-legislative resolution on the draft Council decision.

EU/Vietnam Voluntary Partnership Agreement: forest law enforcement, governance and trade

2018/0272(NLE) - 22/02/2019 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on International Trade adopted the report by Heidi HAUTALA (Greens/EFA, FI) on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on forest law enforcement, governance and trade.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament give its consent to the conclusion of the agreement.

As a reminder, the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) - signed on 19 October 2018 - is in line with the joint commitment of the Union and Vietnam to sustainable forest management. Its objective is to provide a legal framework to ensure that all timber and timber products covered by the VPA imported from Vietnam to the European Union have been legally produced.

As indicated in the explanatory memorandum accompanying the recommendation, the signature of the VPA is therefore the beginning of a long process during which Vietnam will have to adopt whole set of legislation (the so-called Timber Legality Assurance System - TLAS) and set up the necessary administrative structures and capacity in order to implement and enforce its VPA commitments.

Vietnam has already committed to including due diligence obligations for importers of timber and timber products, hence the objective here is to ensure that Vietnamese legislation is equivalent to the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) as much as possible, in particular by providing equivalent due diligence requirements.

Only once Vietnam has fully implemented all VPA commitments, they will be able to accede the EU FLEGT licencing scheme. This would be a major step also in terms of market access to the EU market.

Accession to FLEGT licencing is a long-term goal. It will have to be approved by means of a delegated act procedure and it will therefore be up to the European Parliament to carefully assess whether the commitments and requirements of the VPA have been met.

The trade and sustainable development chapter of the FTA contains provisions on sustainable forest management and trade in forest products and makes explicit reference to the VPA. The FTA will liberalise trade in timber products as soon as it enters into force. It will be necessary to continue to monitor the evolution of bilateral timber trade, including in the framework of the FTA TSD Chapter, in order to make sure that the additional liberalisation does not entail additional risks.

EU/Vietnam Voluntary Partnership Agreement: forest law enforcement, governance and trade

2018/0272(NLE) - 03/07/2018

PURPOSE: to conclude, on behalf of the Union, the voluntary partnership Agreement between the European Union and Vietnam on forest law enforcement, governance and trade.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: in May 2003, the Commission adopted a communication to the European Parliament and to the Council entitled ‘Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT): Proposal for an EU Action Plan’ which called for measures to address illegal logging by developing voluntary partnership Agreements with timber producing countries.

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- establishes a mechanism for dialogue and cooperation between the EU and Vietnam on the FLEGT licensing scheme, via a joint implementation committee;
- establishes principles of stakeholder participation, social safeguards, accountability and transparency, and mechanisms for complaints on, monitoring of and reporting on implementation of the Agreement;
- makes provision for **import controls** at the EU's borders.