

Basic information	
2020/0157(NLE)	Procedure completed
NLE - Non-legislative enactments	
EU/Honduras Voluntary Partnership Agreement: forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber products to the EU	
Accompanying procedure <a href="#">2020/0157M(NLE)</a>	
<b>Subject</b>	
3.10.11 Forestry policy 3.70.18 International and regional environment protection measures and agreements 6.20.02 Export/import control, trade defence, trade barriers 6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations 6.30.02 Financial and technical cooperation and assistance	
<b>Geographical area</b>	
Honduras	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	INTA International Trade	KARLSBRO Karin (Renew)	10/09/2020
		Shadow rapporteur WARBORN Jörgen (EPP) KUMPULA-NATRI Miapetra (S&D) HAUTALA Heidi (Greens /EFA) TARCZYŃSKI Dominik (ECR)	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	DEVE Development	BENTELE Hildegard (EPP)	23/11/2020
Council of the European Union			

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
		COM(2020)0340	

29/07/2020	Preparatory document		
08/12/2020	Legislative proposal published	12543/2020	
08/03/2021	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/03/2021	Vote in committee		
24/03/2021	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A9-0053/2021	<a href="#">Summary</a>
27/04/2021	Decision by Parliament	T9-0121/2021	<a href="#">Summary</a>
26/05/2021	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
18/06/2021	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
<b>Procedure reference</b>	2020/0157(NLE)
<b>Procedure type</b>	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
<b>Procedure subtype</b>	Consent by Parliament
<b>Amendments and repeals</b>	Accompanying procedure <a href="#">2020/0157M(NLE)</a>
<b>Legal basis</b>	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 207-p4 Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 218-p7 Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 207-p3 Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 218-p6a
<b>Other legal basis</b>	Rules of Procedure EP 165
<b>Stage reached in procedure</b>	Procedure completed
<b>Committee dossier</b>	INTA/9/03683

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE660.085	21/12/2020	
Committee opinion	DEVE	PE661.870	27/01/2021	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A9-0053/2021	24/03/2021	<a href="#">Summary</a>
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0121/2021	27/04/2021	<a href="#">Summary</a>
Council of the EU				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Legislative proposal	12543/2020	08/12/2020		
European Commission				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
	COM(2020)0340			

Preparatory document		29/07/2020	<a href="#">Summary</a>
Document attached to the procedure	 COM(2020)0341	29/07/2020	

<b>Final act</b>
Decision 2021/0964 OJ L 217 18.06.2021, p. 0001

## EU/Honduras Voluntary Partnership Agreement: forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber products to the EU

2020/0157(NLE) - 24/03/2021 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on International Trade adopted the report by Karin KARLSBRO (Renew, SE) on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Honduras on forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber products to the European Union.

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

The EU published its Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan in 2003. The plan aims to combat illegal logging around the world.

By entering Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) with timber producing third countries, the EU opens for imports of legally sourced timber and timber products to enter the Single Market. These agreements are binding trade agreements. They also contribute to better regulation and governance of the forest sector in the exporting country.

Honduras was the first Latin American country to initiate and successfully conclude negotiations for a VPA with the EU. These negotiations started in 2013 and were completed in 2018. Honduras is also the first VPA partner that has included indigenous peoples as a separate interest group at the negotiating table.

For the EU, this agreement is in line with its objectives under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, the Aichi Targets of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, and the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030. Within these frameworks, it is committed to, *inter alia*, encouraging sustainable forest management, combating deforestation and forest degradation and promoting sustainable development.

The Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the EU and Honduras:

- 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 Honduras to develop legislation to ensure that timber imported in Honduras 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 Honduras 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.

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.

## EU/Honduras Voluntary Partnership Agreement: forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber products to the EU

2020/0157(NLE) - 29/07/2020

**PURPOSE:** to conclude the Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the European Union and Honduras on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade in Timber Products to the European Union.

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 an Action Plan on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT), which called for measures to combat illegal logging through the development of voluntary partnership agreements with timber-producing countries. The Action Plan was endorsed by the Council in 2003 and the European Parliament adopted a [resolution](#) on the subject on 7 July 2005.

In 2005, the Council adopted [Regulation \(EC\) No 2173/2005](#) on the establishment of a FLEGT licensing scheme for imports of timber into the European Community, a mechanism that enables verification of the legality of timber imported into the EU under the FLEGT partnerships.

Also in 2005, the Council authorised the Commission to negotiate FLEGT partnership agreements with timber-producing countries. The Commission entered into negotiations with Honduras in 2013. The Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the EU and Honduras (Agreement) addresses all elements of the Council negotiating directives.

CONTENT: the Commission proposes that the Council decide to approve, on behalf of the European Union, the Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the European Union and Honduras on forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber products to the European Union.

The agreement provides a legal framework to ensure that all imports into the EU of timber and timber products covered by the agreement from Honduras have been legally harvested.

The agreement does not only promote trade in legally harvested timber, but it also aims to strengthen forest governance in Honduras by improving transparency, accountability and stakeholder participation. Since the implementation of the Agreement will reinforce sustainable forest management this initiative will also contribute to combating climate change through reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

## **EU/Honduras Voluntary Partnership Agreement: forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber products to the EU**

2020/0157(NLE) - 27/04/2021 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 632 votes to 23 with 38 abstentions a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Honduras on forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber products to the European Union.

Following the recommendation of the Committee on International Trade, Parliament gave its consent to the conclusion of the agreement.

The European Union published its Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan in 2003. The plan aims to combat illegal logging around the world.

In particular, the EU-Honduras Voluntary Partnership Agreement establishes the framework, institutions and mechanisms of the timber legality assurance system for the FLEGT licensing scheme. It also sets out the framework for monitoring legal compliance and independent auditing of the system.

The agreement includes a clear commitment by Honduras to develop legislation to ensure that timber imported into Honduras has been legally harvested in accordance with the applicable legislation of the country where the timber was harvested.