Basic information

2023/0222R(NLE) NLE - Non-legislative enactments	Procedure completed
EU/Côte d'Ivoire Voluntary Partnership Agreement: forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber and timber products to the EU (FLEGT) Accompanying procedure 2023/0222(NLE) **Subject** 3.10.11 Forestry policy 3.70.01 Protection of natural resources: fauna, flora, nature, wildlife, countryside; biodiversity 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	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
INTA International Trade	KARLSBRO Karin (Renew)	18/09/2023
	Shadow rapporteur WARBORN Jörgen (EPP) KUMPULA-NATRI Miapetra (S&D) HAUTALA Heidi (Greens /EFA) TARCZYŃSKI Dominik (ECR) MAUREL Emmanuel (The Left)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
DEVE Development	ZORRINHO Carlos (S&D)	09/10/2023

Council of the European Union

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary

18/01/2024	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
07/03/2024	Vote in committee		
20/03/2024	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0137/2024	Summary
10/04/2024	Decision by Parliament	T9-0209/2024	Summary
10/04/2024	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2023/0222R(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Interim report under consent procedure
Amendments and repeals	Accompanying procedure 2023/0222(NLE)
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	INTA/9/13952

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Specific opinion	DEVE	PE758.740	29/01/2024	
Committee draft report		PE758.797	07/02/2024	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE758.798	07/02/2024	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0137/2024	20/03/2024	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0209/2024	10/04/2024	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2024)399	29/08/2024	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

EU/Côte d’Ivoire Voluntary Partnership Agreement: forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber and timber products to the EU (FLEGT)

2023/0222R(NLE) - 10/04/2024 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 521 votes to 11, with 78 abstentions, a resolution on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the Union, of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire on forest law

enforcement, governance and trade in timber and timber products to the European Union (FLEGT).

Parliament welcomed the conclusion of negotiations on the VPA between the EU and Côte d’Ivoire and called for its swift ratification by both sides so it can enter into force in 2024. It recognised that the full implementation of the VPA will be a long-term process which will require the adoption of a whole set of legislation and adequate administrative capacity and expertise for its implementation and enforcement. FLEGT licensing can only begin once Côte d’Ivoire has demonstrated the readiness of its timber legality assurance system. Therefore, Parliament called for the introduction of measures that can support the reduction of burdensome administrative processes. It urged both partners to identify digital methods for simplifying the process, for instance, paperless solutions such as e-certificates.

The resolution underlined that the success of the FLEGT also depends on tackling fraud, organised crime and corruption throughout the timber supply chain. In this regard, the Government of Côte d’Ivoire is urged to work to stop widespread corruption and address other factors fuelling illegal logging and forest degradation, with particular regard to customs, in cooperation with other authorities, which will play a pivotal role in the implementation and enforcement of the VPA.

The Commission is called on to **increase the funding allocation** to the Forest Partnership with Côte d’Ivoire as part of the programming review process for the EU bilateral programme for 2025-2027 in order to assist in the VPA’s implementation.

Moreover, Members called for strengthening the role and participation of the private sector in the VPA’s implementation and to assist operators, in particular SMEs, in building capacity to ensure better clarity, understanding and compliance with the requirements of the VPA.

The resolution recognised that the VPA with Côte d’Ivoire, as well as those with other countries, proves that trade agreements can work, without the threat to impose sanctions, by the inclusion of different means of control and cooperation.

The Commission is asked to regularly report to Parliament on the implementation of the agreement, including on the work of the Joint Implementation Committee.

Lastly, Parliament called on the Member States to fully comply with and implement the EU Timber Regulation and to align with the requirements of the EU Deforestation Regulation.

EU/Côte d’Ivoire Voluntary Partnership Agreement: forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber and timber products to the EU (FLEGT)

2023/0222R(NLE) - 20/03/2024 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on International Trade adopted the interim report by Karin KARLSBRO (Renew, SE) on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the Union, of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between the European Union and the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire on forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber and timber products to the European Union (FLEGT).

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

Members welcomed the conclusion of negotiations on the VPA between the EU and Côte d’Ivoire and called for its **swift ratification** by both sides. They underlined that the full implementation of the VPA will be a long-term process which will require the adoption of a whole set of legislation and adequate administrative capacity and expertise for its implementation and enforcement. The success of the FLEGT also depends on tackling fraud, organised crime and corruption throughout the timber supply chain. In this regard, the Government of Côte d’Ivoire is urged to work to stop widespread corruption and address other factors fuelling illegal logging and forest degradation, with particular regard to customs, in cooperation with other authorities, which will play a pivotal role in the implementation and enforcement of the VPA.

The report called on the Commission to **increase the funding allocation** to the Forest Partnership with Côte d’Ivoire as part of the programming review process for the EU bilateral programme for 2025-2027 in order to assist in the VPA’s implementation.

Moreover, Members called for strengthening the **role and participation of the private sector** in the VPA’s implementation and to assist operators, in particular SMEs, in building capacity to ensure better clarity, understanding and compliance with the requirements of the VPA.

The committee recognised that the VPA with Côte d’Ivoire, as well as those with other countries, proves that trade agreements can work, **without the threat to impose sanctions**, by the inclusion of **different means of control and cooperation**.

Lastly, the Commission is asked to regularly report to Parliament on the implementation of the agreement, including on the work of the Joint Implementation Committee. The EU Member States should fully comply with and implement the EU Timber Regulation and to align with the requirements of the EU Deforestation Regulation.