Council of the European Union

Brussels, 21 November 2023
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Interinstitutional File:
2023/0219 (NLE)

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LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject:	COUNCIL DECISION on the signing, 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)

COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2023/…

of …

on the signing, 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)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular the first subparagraph of Article 207(4), in conjunction with Article 218(5) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

(1) On 21 May 2003, the Commission adopted a Communication to the Council and the European Parliament 'Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT): proposal for an EU action plan'. The Action Plan set out in that communication ('the FLEGT Action Plan') called for measures to address illegal logging by developing voluntary partnership agreements with timber-producing countries. Council conclusions on the action plan were adopted in October 2003[1] and a European Parliament resolution on the subject was adopted on 11 July 2005[2].

(2) On 5 December 2005, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with timber-producing countries on partnership agreements to implement the FLEGT Action Plan.

(3) On 20 December 2005, the Council adopted Regulation (EC) No 2173/2005[3] which established a FLEGT licensing scheme for imports of timber into the Union from countries with which the Union has concluded voluntary partnership agreements.

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1 OJ C 268, 7.11.2003, p. 1.

2 OJ C 157E, 6.7.2006, p. 482.

3 Council Regulation (EC) No 2173/2005 of 20 December 2005 on the establishment of a FLEGT licensing scheme for imports of timber into the European Community (OJ L 347, 30.12.2005, p. 1).

(4) The negotiations with the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire in view of the conclusion of a Voluntary Partnership Agreement on forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber and timber products ('the Agreement'), were successfully concluded by the initialling of the Agreement on 17 October 2022.

(5) The Agreement should be signed,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The signing, 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 is hereby authorised, subject to the conclusion of the said Agreement[1+].

Article 2

The President of the Council is hereby authorised to designate the person(s) empowered to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Union.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at …,

For the Council
The President

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1 The text of the Agreement will be published together with the decision on its conclusion.
+ Delegations/OJ: see document ST 12902/23.