



Brussels, 9 December 2024
(OR. en)

15505/24

**Interinstitutional File:
2024/0268(NLE)**

**AGRI 793
RELEX 1411
FORETS 254
DEVGEN 177
ENV 1103
PROBA 40
SUSTDEV 120**

LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject: COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the Joint Monitoring and Review Committee established by the Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Co-operative Republic of Guyana on forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber products to the European Union, regarding the establishment of the rules of procedure of the Joint Monitoring and Review Committee and the working procedures for arbitration

COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2024/...

of ...

**on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union
within the Joint Monitoring and Review Committee
established by the Voluntary Partnership Agreement between
the European Union and the Co-operative Republic of Guyana
on forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber products
to the European Union, regarding the establishment of the rules of procedure
of the Joint Monitoring and Review Committee
and the working procedures for arbitration**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 207(4), first subparagraph, in conjunction with Article 218(9) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) The Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Co-operative Republic of Guyana on forest law enforcement, governance, and trade in timber products to the European Union¹ (the ‘Agreement’) was concluded by the Union by means of Council Decision (EU) 2023/904² and entered into force on 1 June 2023.
- (2) Pursuant to Article 20(1) of the Agreement, a Joint Monitoring and Review Committee (JMRC) has been established to facilitate the management, monitoring and review of the Agreement, including the management of the independent audit, and to facilitate dialogue and exchanges of information between the parties to the Agreement. Article 20(3) of the Agreement provides that the JMRC is to establish its own rules of procedure.
- (3) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of the Agreement, where the parties to the Agreement have failed to resolve a dispute by recourse to consultations and, where applicable, mediation, it is possible for either party to request the establishment of an arbitration panel. Article 26(5) of the Agreement provides that the JMRC is to establish the working procedures for arbitration.
- (4) The JMRC, during its next meeting, will adopt decisions establishing its rules of procedure and the working procedures for arbitration.

¹ OJ L 121, 5.5.2023, p. 3.

² Council Decision (EU) 2023/904 of 7 March 2023 on the conclusion of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Co-operative Republic of Guyana on forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber products to the European Union (OJ L 121, 5.5.2023, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2023/904/oj>).

- (5) The Union should determine the position to be taken within the JMRC regarding the adoption of the decisions establishing the JMRC's rules of procedure and the working procedures for arbitration.
- (6) The position of the Union within the JMRC should therefore be based on the attached draft Decisions,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. The position to be taken on the Union's behalf within the Joint Monitoring and Review Committee (JMRC) established by the Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Co-operative Republic of Guyana on forest law enforcement, governance, and trade in timber products to the European Union shall be based on the draft Decisions of the JMRC attached to this Decision.
2. Minor technical changes to the JMRC's draft Decisions may be agreed to by the representatives of the Union in the JMRC without a further decision of the Council.

Article 2

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

Done at ..., ...

For the Council

The President
