










Procedure file

Basic information	
NLE - Non-legislative enactments	2020/0157(NLE)
EU/Honduras Voluntary Partnership Agreement: forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber products to the EU	
Accompanying procedure 2020/0157M(NLE)	
Subject 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	
Geographical area Honduras	
Procedure completed	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 International Trade	 KARLSBRO Karin Shadow rapporteur  WARBORN Jörgen  KUMPULA-NATRI Miapetra  HAUTALA Heidi  TARCZYŃSKI Dominik  MAUREL Emmanuel	
Council of the European Union European Commission	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 Development	 BENTELE Hildegard	
	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	International Cooperation and Development	URPILAINEN Jutta	

Key events			
29/07/2020	Preparatory document	COM(2020)0340	
07/12/2020	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	Summary
27/04/2021	Decision by Parliament	T9-0121/2021	Summary
26/05/2021	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
18/06/2021	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2020/0157(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 218-p6a; 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 207-p4
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	INTA/9/03683

Documentation gateway					
Document attached to the procedure		COM(2020)0341	29/07/2020	EC	
Preparatory document		COM(2020)0340	29/07/2020	EC	
Legislative proposal		12543/2020	08/12/2020	CSL	
Committee draft report		PE660.085	21/12/2020	EP	
Committee opinion	DEVE	PE661.870	27/01/2021	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A9-0053/2021	24/03/2021	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0121/2021	27/04/2021	EP	Summary

Final act
Decision 2021/964 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

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

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.