



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 6 September 2013

13305/13

**Interinstitutional File:
2013/0204 (NLE)**

**AGRI 534
FORETS 44
DEVGEN 218
ENV 797
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JUR 442
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PROBA 36**

“I/A” ITEM NOTE

from: General Secretariat

to: Coreper/Council

No. Cion prop.: 11760/13

Subject: Adoption of a Decision of the Council on the signing, on behalf of the Union, of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Indonesia on forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber products to the European Union

1. On 20 June 2013, the Commission submitted the above proposal to the Council. It is to be seen in the context of the EU Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT), whose purpose is to combat illegal logging.
2. In December 2005, the Council adopted a Regulation that provides the legal framework for the establishment of a timber import licensing scheme and a mechanism to verify the legality of timber imports into the Community, to be implemented on a voluntary basis through partnership agreements. The Council also mandated the Commission to negotiate the said partnership agreements.

3. This Voluntary Partnership Agreement is the sixth to be signed. The first Voluntary Partnership was signed with Ghana in November 2009.
4. At its meeting on 6 September 2013, the Working Party on Forestry agreed by unanimity to the text of the draft Council Decision.
5. It is therefore suggested that the Permanent Representatives Committee invites the Council to adopt at one of its forthcoming meetings, as an "A" item, the Decision as finalised by the legal-linguistic experts and set out in documents 11768/13 and 11769/13.
