



Brussels, 1 October 2018
(OR. en)

12242/18

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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: COUNCIL DECISION on the signing, on behalf of the Union, of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on forest law enforcement, governance and trade
- *Adoption*
COUNCIL DECISION on the conclusion of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on forest law enforcement, governance and trade
- *Agreement in principle*
- *Request for the consent of the European Parliament*

1. On 4 July 2018, the Commission submitted to the Council its proposals for a Council Decision mentioned above¹.
2. On 5 July 2018, the Working Party on Forestry held a preliminary exchange of views on the two proposals, which were endorsed on 12 July 2018 by the Working Party of Counsellors/Attachés (Agri - Forestry).

¹ 10814/18 + ADD1 and 10815/18 + ADD1.

3. In the light of the above, the Permanent Representatives' Committee, is invited to confirm the agreement reached at the level of the Working Party and to invite the Council at one of its forthcoming sessions:

- to adopt the Decision on the signing, on behalf of the Union, of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on forest law enforcement, governance and trade, as finalised by the legal linguistic experts and set out in documents 10860/18; the European Parliament will be informed in accordance with Article 218(10) TFEU;
- to agree in principle on the draft Decision on the conclusion of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on forest law enforcement, governance and trade, as finalised by the legal linguistic experts and set out in document 10861/18, as well as the text of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement, as finalised by the legal linguistic experts and set out in document 10877/18;
- to decide to transmit to the European Parliament for its consent documents 10861/18 and 10877/18, as mentioned above.
