



Council of the  
European Union

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Eingelangt am 21/11/23

Brussels, 21 November 2023  
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2023/0222 (NLE)

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AGRI 437  
RELEX 964  
FORETS 96  
DEVGEN 156  
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PROBA 33

#### LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

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Subject: COUNCIL DECISION on the conclusion 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)

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**COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2023/...**

**of ...**

**on the conclusion 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(3) and the first subparagraph of Article 207(4), in conjunction with Article 218(6), second subparagraph, point (a)(v), and Article 218(7) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Having regard to the consent of the European Parliament<sup>1</sup>,

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<sup>1</sup> Consent of ... (not yet published in the Official Journal).

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<sup>1</sup> and a European Parliament resolution on the subject was adopted on 11 July 2005<sup>2</sup>.
- (2) In line with Council Decision (EU) 2023/...<sup>3+</sup>, 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 (‘the Agreement’) was signed on ...<sup>++</sup>, subject to its conclusion at a later date.
- (3) The Agreement should be approved,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 268, 7.11.2003, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 157E, 6.7.2006, p. 482.

<sup>3</sup> Council Decision (EU) 2023/... of ... on the signing, on behalf of the European 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) (OJ L, ..., ELI: ...).

<sup>+</sup> OJ: Please insert in the text the number of the Decision contained in document ST 12245/23 and insert the number, date, title and OJ reference of that Regulation in the footnote.

<sup>++</sup> OJ: please insert the date of signature of the Agreement contained in document ST 12902/23.

### *Article 1*

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 approved on behalf of the Union<sup>1+</sup>.

### *Article 2*

The President of the Council shall, on behalf of the Union, give the notification provided for in Article 31 of the Agreement<sup>2</sup>.

### *Article 3*

The Commission shall represent the Union within the Joint Implementation Committee set up under Article 19 of the Agreement.

The Member States may participate in meetings of the Joint Implementation Committee as members of the Union delegation.

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<sup>1</sup> The text of the Agreement is published in ... [insert OJ reference for document ST 12902/23].

<sup>+</sup> Delegations/OJ: see document ST 12902/23.

<sup>2</sup> The date of entry into force of the Agreement will be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* by the General Secretariat of the Council.

#### *Article 4*

For the purpose of amending the annexes to the Agreement in accordance with Article 26 of the Agreement, the Commission is authorised, in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 11(3) of Council Regulation (EC) No 2173/2005<sup>1</sup>, to approve any such amendments on behalf of the Union.

#### *Article 5*

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

Done at ...,

*For the Council*  
*The President*

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<sup>1</sup> 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).