Develop partnerships with producing countries

Développer les partenariats avec les pays producteurs

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-- 1 of 2 --

Developing partnerships with producing countries -The EU is currently developing bilateral agreements with countries that export wood products to the EU. THESE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS are voluntary for exporting countries and commit the EU to assist them in improving governance in the forestry sector: through the introduction of effective regulation systems for forestry practices; through the establishment of tracking systems for timber and derived products; and by issuing permits for their export to the EU. Once a country accepts the agreement, it has a specified period to implement the necessary systems after which only the authorized timber from that country will be accepted at the EU border. The export authorization will be based on the national standards for forest management outlined in the laws and regulations of each partner country. These cover environmental production, logging rules, payment of property rights, and land rights, particularly those of communities that depend on forests. . The institutions at the heart of these partnerships will ensure compliance with the law in the forestry sector, allowing responsible forestry companies to achieve certified sustainable forest management by reducing the risk of competition with cheap illegal products. And by purchasing authorized forest products from these producing countries, companies reduce the risk of handling illegal products. However, the agreements, as well as the transparent systems that support national legality authorizations, are not instant solutions. In some cases, they may take several years to negotiate and implement. Despite this, many hope that this mechanism combining trade and development aid will be an important step towards the protection of threatened forests and the sharing of benefits from legal and sustainable forest management in partner countries. Commercial exploitation of forests began in Liberia after four years of deep reform. Our national forest management strategy now requires that forests be managed to benefit local communities, their preservation, and the forestry trade. In 2006, we adopted a reformed forestry law, and since then, the authority for forest development has adopted international standards for forest management, including tracking systems for felled trees entrusted to the SGS group. We welcome the support from Europe and the framework established by FLEGT to create a vibrant forestry sector and support responsible markets at this critical moment for our forests. John T.WOODS Director General, Authority for Forest Development, Liberia FLEGT combines trade and development aid.? FLEGT to create a vibrant forestry sector and support responsible markets at this critical moment for our forests.

-- 2 of 2 --