Develop a regulation for importers

Développer une réglementation des importateurs

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The Cameroonian forestry sector has seen a major improvement in its transparency, primarily due to the collaboration between the government and an independent monitor of the enforcement of forestry laws and governance. The government allows an external monitor to examine its activities in detail and to publish the results of its investigations. The major consequences include the reduction of illegal practices by logging companies to avoid appearing in these public reports. An official investigation into corruption within the Ministry of Forests, as well as the revision and cancellation of controversial exploitation permits and law enforcement systems. Comparable benefits should follow in the Republic of Congo, where a similar collaboration has recently begun. Andrea Vincent Independent Forest Monitor, Resource Extraction Monitoring (REM), Cameroon Although they are bilateral and voluntary, the partnership agreements and self-authorization systems that will be developed within this framework face a number of challenges. For example, it may still be possible to continue exporting illegal wood to the European Union by passing through countries that choose not to enter into partnership agreements. The EU cannot directly address this issue due to international trade laws established by the World Trade Organization (WTO), but it actively encourages the adoption of the FLEGT authorization system by partner governments and the private sector. To improve recognition within European companies, the EU is currently exploring the implementation of regulatory options based on the principle of due diligence. This would mean that wood traders would be required to establish procedures to provide reasonable assurance that the wood and derived products imported or produced within the EU are indeed of legal origin. Even though the proposed measure does not explicitly make proof of legality a requirement for sale, it would likely encourage buyers to source verified/certified wood. If adopted, this regulation would also align the EU market with the recent revision of the Lacey Act in the USA, which makes the sale or importation of illegal wood or derived products a federal offense. The Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between the EU and Malaysia under the FLEGT action plan is a positive policy in response to changing consumer attitudes in the EU. It will ensure continued market access for Malaysian wood products obtained legally to EU markets. It will provide assurance to EU consumers that only legal wood products with a FLEGT license will be allowed to enter the EU market. M. Lee Ley Yew Private Sector Partner of the EU Timber Trade Action Plan, Bortim, Malaysia

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