FLEGT: the trade policy

Le FLEGT: la politique commerciale

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EU Trade Policy: -develop partnerships with countries that are willing to tackle illegality in their forestry sectors and demonstrate that the timber and derived products they export to the EU are of legal origin. -develop regulations to encourage importers to take responsibility for the provenance of the wood they purchase. Buyers from Member States: -encourage European governments to purchase paper, construction timber, office furniture, and other forest products that are legal and sustainable. -alert EU companies to their responsibilities regarding the purchase of legal and sustainable timber and assist them in developing tools to do so easily. The FLEGT action plan could play a significant role in reversing the terrible effects of illegal logging, as long as the EU maintains its political will to use it to address the negative social, environmental, and economic aspects of illegal timber trade. The first step must be to open the political space for those most severely affected by the scourges related to forest exploitation such as corruption, poor governance, and poverty. Ensuring a genuine national dialogue must be at the heart of these initiatives. If it meets its objectives, the FLEGT approach could be the first action to tackle the essential underlying causes of forest destruction. The FLEGT action plan offers EU importing companies a meaningful, pragmatic, and robust system to ensure the legality of all timber, but mainly tropical timber, that they will bring into the Union. This fills a gap and will enhance existing voluntary measures designed for the same purpose. Compliance with authorization rules will also put many exporting companies on the right track to implement the necessary changes in their operations to achieve what is the ultimate goal for sustainable purchasing and sales. It is also encouraging to see the large number of countries covered by FLEGT, even if we would like to see more, as establishing a level playing field for us means that competition for products will be based on quality, service, and a reasonable price; not on a price diminished by the entry of illegal timber into the supply chain. John White President Director of the UK Timber Trade Federation FLEGT first action to tackle the essential underlying causes of forest destruction.? FERN-Forest Resources Network and the European Union.

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