

II

(Non-legislative acts)

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

COUNCIL DECISION

of 27 September 2010

on the signing of a Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Cameroon on forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber and derived products to the European Union (FLEGT)

(2011/200/EU)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

licensing scheme for imports of timber into the Union from countries with which the Union has concluded voluntary partnership agreements.

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 207, in conjunction with Article 218(5), thereof,

- (4) The negotiations with the Republic of Cameroon have been concluded and the Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Cameroon on forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber and derived products to the European Union (hereinafter referred to as 'the Agreement') was initialled on 6 May 2010.

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

- (5) The Agreement should be signed subject to its conclusion,

Whereas:

- (1) In May 2003 the Commission adopted a Communication to the Council and the European Parliament entitled 'Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT): Proposal for an EU Action Plan' which called for measures to address illegal logging through the development of voluntary partnership agreements with timber-producing countries. Council conclusions on that Action Plan were adopted in October 2003 ⁽¹⁾ and the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the subject on 11 July 2005 ⁽²⁾.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The signing of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Cameroon on forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber and derived products to the European Union (FLEGT) is hereby authorised on behalf of the Union, subject to the conclusion of the said Agreement.

- (2) On 5 December 2005, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations on partnership agreements to implement the Union Action Plan for FLEGT.

The text of the Agreement is attached to this Decision ⁽⁴⁾.

Article 2

The President of the Council is hereby authorised to designate the person empowered to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Union, subject to its conclusion.

- (3) On 20 December 2005, the Council adopted Regulation (EC) No 2173/2005 ⁽³⁾ which established a FLEGT

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 268, 7.11.2003, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 157 E, 6.7.2006, p. 482.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 347, 30.12.2005, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ The text of the Agreement will be published together with the Decision on its conclusion.

Article 3

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

Done at Brussels, 27 September 2010.

For the Council
The President
K. PEETERS
