

**Question for written answer E-002516/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: FLEGT Action Plan and tackling corruption

The Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan aims to develop a comprehensive approach to tackle illegal logging. Civil society and Parliament have repeatedly highlighted deficits in the logging sector in terms of accountability, transparency, participation and integrity, which continue to thwart efforts to address underlying corrupt practices.

1. With what measures does the Commission plan to follow up Council Conclusions 2003/268 (paragraph 9), Evaluation SWD(2016)276, and the Council Conclusions on the FLEGT Action Plan (paragraph 14) regarding anti-corruption and forest governance? What empirical indicators are being considered to assess progress in tackling corruption in this sector, considering the fact that the recent Evaluation SWD(2016)276 calls, in the conclusions, for 'stronger evaluation and monitoring arrangements'?
2. How does the Commission plan to ensure that appropriate measures are taken in countries that are either implementing or negotiating Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) to ensure that they comply with the goals laid out in the initial proposal (COM(2003)0251), especially subheadings 4.1.1 and 4.1.3 regarding accountability, integrity, participation and transparency aspects essential to tackling corruption?
3. What steps will the Commission take to ensure that VPA countries review logging concessions and cancel those allocated through corrupt or illegal means? What steps will they take to ensure that FLEGT-licensed timber does not come from logging concessions allocated through corrupt or illegal means?