



# **EU Timber Regulation Review, Implementation and Enforcement**

**INTA-ENVI-DEVE Joint Meeting  
16 June, Brussels**

## **Key issues in this presentation:**

1. EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) - Key obligations
2. EUTR Review
3. EUTR implementation and enforcement

# EU Timber Regulation - Key obligations

## Due diligence

EU operators shall exercise due diligence when placing timber or timber products on the market by implementing procedures so as to minimise the risk of illegal timber in their supply chain

## Prohibition

The placing on the market of illegally harvested timber or timber products (both domestic and imported) derived from such timber shall be prohibited

## Traceability

EU traders (after first placing on the EU market) shall be able to identify from whom they bought the timber products and, where applicable, to whom they have supplied the timber products

## **EU Timber Regulation - Key obligations**

- Member States responsibility:
  - Competent authorities designation;
  - Penalties definition and application;
  - Checks on operators (risk-based approach).
- There are no checks on customs level. The responsibility is on operators.
- European Commission promotes and monitors the harmonised and effective application by the Member States.

## EUTR Review

- The Commission released a report on the effectiveness of the EU Timber Regulation during its first two years of implementation, on the basis of:
  - Member States' reports;
  - Inputs received through the public consultation;
  - Direct contacts with a broad range of stakeholders, including private sector and civil society.

## **EUTR Report: Main elements**

- The Regulation has the potential to achieve its objectives to combat illegal logging and associated trade.
- A broad range of stakeholders recognises that the Regulation adds significant value to the international efforts to halt deforestation and forest degradation, conserve biodiversity and address climate change.
- Further essential efforts are needed from Member States and the private sector to achieve its effective and efficient application.

## **EUTR Report: Main elements**

- Evidence collected suggests that insufficient resources allocated to Competent Authorities are a challenge for the effective enforcement of the EUTR.
- EU operators are gradually taking steps to ensure the legality of their suppliers.
- Additional efforts should be made by the Competent Authorities to inform operators, especially SMEs, about the requirements of the EUTR. In particular, cost-effective practices to implement the due diligence obligation that have been identified should be further promoted.

## **EUTR Report: Main elements**

- The Commission has the obligation to continue to promote and monitor the uniform and effective application by the Member States.
- The communication campaigns carried out by the Commission and the Member States have raised awareness of the problem of illegal logging amongst EU consumers.
- EUTR has set the example for other consumer countries to expand their national legislation with similar legislative acts (Australia, Switzerland) or to start considering measures with similar objectives (China, Japan, Korea).



## **EUTR Report: Main elements**

- Incentive for producer countries to develop systems to verify and demonstrate compliance with the legality requirements, including by concluding Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) with the EU.
- Although the evaluation did not identify a clear need for changes in the core elements of the legislation, the Commission may consider expanding its product scope, subject to an impact assessment of options.
- The results of this evaluation will be used to further improve the implementation and application of the EUTR.

## **EUTR implementation and enforcement**

- The Commission supports the Member States in their implementation efforts through a number of measures to promote compliance:
  - Communication platform;
  - Developing guidance;
  - Promoting cooperation with third countries;
  - Encouraging sharing of experience and best practice between Member States.

## **EUTR implementation and enforcement**

- There are still some discrepancies in implementation across the EU; however a significant progress has been registered since last year.
- In July 2014 there were 18 Member States where the compliance with the formal EUTR requirements of was still in development, while since June 2015 there are only 4 Member States where some additional measures are still to be implemented.

## **EUTR implementation and enforcement**

- Reinforced EUTR Compliance strategy is under implementation by Commission:
  - Compliance scoreboard publicly available (24 Member States fully compliant);
  - Action against non-compliant Member States underway: Infringements open with 4 Member States where additional measures are necessary (Greece, Hungary, Romania, Spain).

## **EUTR implementation and enforcement**

- The work of civil society organisations in identifying and tracing illegal timber has proved to be extremely valuable, particularly in evidence gathering.
- The Commission takes the information provided by the civil society organisations very seriously and has and will raise any well-substantiated serious allegations with the Member States.



**Thank you!**