

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

9.4.2008

0023/2008

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Magor Imre Csibi, Fiona Hall, Dan Jørgensen, Péter Olajos and Cristian Silviu Buşoi,

on combating illegally logged timber in the EU market

Lapse date: 15.7.2008

0023/2008

Written declaration on combating illegally logged timber in the EU market

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas global deforestation has reached 13 million hectares per year and is the third biggest source of greenhouse emissions,
 - B. whereas illegal logging is a key factor of deforestation in developing countries but also to a considerable extent across Europe, especially in Central and Eastern Europe,
 - C. whereas illegal logging and related trade cause extreme loss of biodiversity and erosion, undermine the livelihoods of local communities, contribute to climate change and cost timber-producing countries 10 to 15 billion euros per year,
 - D. whereas the FLEGT voluntary partnership agreements have proved insufficient to prevent the import of timber illegally logged in third countries and do not cover timber illegally logged within the EU, on the territory of the Member States,
1. Calls on the Commission to present without further delay legislation which requires that only legally harvested timber and timber products are placed on the EU market;
 2. Calls on the Commission to ensure the effectiveness of this legislation by fulfilling the following requirements:
 - use Article 175 (Environment) of the EC Treaty as the legal basis;
 - develop a standard definition of illegal logging which supports sustainable forest management;
 - cover all wood products;
 - place the burden of proof on companies;
 - set standardised requirements for traceability and verification schemes;
 - ensure clear and non-discriminatory implementation and reliable control mechanisms;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission, the Council and the Parliaments of the Member States.