

Question for written answer E-014457/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Gilles Pargneaux (S&D)

Subject: Timber trade legislation

The European Court of Auditors (ECA) recently pinpointed a number of shortcomings in the legislation designed to tackle the trade in illegally logged timber in the European Union.

Firstly, four Member States had not yet introduced the requisite measures to make their timber imports traceable and to comply with the relevant EU rules.

Secondly, in relation to the EU Action Plan on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT), under which 35 countries received grants totalling EUR 300 million between 2003 and 2013, the ECA audit found that very poor results had been achieved in the countries concerned.

Thirdly, the ECA found that, over the period in which the FLEGT plan was implemented, it had not been clearly programmed or scheduled and no specific targets had been set – all of which, in the Court's view, had undermined the plan's effectiveness.

Hence, some issues need to be clarified.

1. How does the Commission intend to ensure that all the Member States fully implement the law in respect of the timber trade?
2. Is the Commission planning to change the way that the relevant financial resources are allocated – in particular by directing its funding to those timber-producing countries where it will have the greatest impact?
3. Does the Commission plan to introduce a clear and detailed work programme for the years ahead?