

DRAFT AGENDA

13th MEETING OF THE FLEGT COMMITTEE

Brussels, 16th May 2013

Start at 10:00

1. Adoption of the agenda (CMT 13/1)
2. Presentation given by the consultancy contracted by the European Forest Institute to identify main issues, which may arise with the handling of FLEGT licenses in the EU
3. Implementation and enforcement of the EUTR
 - 3.1. State of play in laying down penalties and carrying out checks on operators (tour de table)
 - 3.2. Issues/problems encountered during the first months of the EUTR implementation
 - 3.3. Report from the Commission on the state of play of recognising monitoring organisations
4. Points suggested by MS
 - 4.1. (NL) Furniture made from recycled or reclaimed timber

Background: Waste directive is not applicable to imports of furniture, only to imports of recycled or reclaimed timber. Furniture from recycled timber should not be subject to the regulation (Recital 11).

Discussion: How do CAs verify that furniture is made from reclaimed timber and not from newly logged timber, made to look old. If the furniture is made from recycled timber, retracing to the forest will be impossible. What is sufficient prove: there seems to be no legislation concerning sale or handling of reclaimed timber from constructions sides. How do the other CAs deal with this issue. In the NL there seem to be quite a number of imports with furniture from reclaimed teak and other timber species.

- 4.2. (NL) Bamboo and rattan

Background: Bamboo and rattan are covered by the EUTR for some HS codes. We have been asked by companies importing bamboo to exempt them from the EUTR because

- a) Bamboo is a grass species, not a timber species; and b) Illegal logging is not an issue

with bamboo.

The EUTR is aimed at stopping illegally logged timber from entering the EU market. Bamboo is a grass, not a timber species, so the main goal of the EUTR is not applicable to bamboo. We cannot be sure that bamboo is not in some way related to illegal logging or that forest legislation also applies to bamboo forests and plantations. It could be that forests are being or will be cleared for bamboo plantations. But this also applies for palm oil plantations. There is not a lot of information available on bamboo and sustainability. We do not want to make the claim that bamboo is exempt from EUTR because there is no illegal logging of bamboo going on. For rattan a same line of reasoning can be followed although rattan is more related with forests and trees than bamboo.

Discussion: Can we give companies dealing in bamboo the permission not to have a DDS because bamboo is no timber? The only check to be carried out by the competent authority would be to check whether the product is indeed 100% bamboo.

5. Any other business

Close at 17:00

Distribution of documents:

E = sent by email / posted on CIRCA
P or F = will be send by post or fax

PM = distributed at a previous meeting
FM = to be distributed at the forthcoming meeting

Ag. Pnt	Doc no.	Document Title	E	P/F	P/M	F/M
1	CMT 12/1	Provisional Agenda	√			
2	CMT 12/2	Draft guidance document on EUTR interpretation	√			