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# An NGO view on EU FLEG(T) Action Plan

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## EU and FLEG(T)

### *EU imports of wood/wooden based products*

- EU wood industry is using 591 mil. cm RWE
- Volume of wood harvested in EU countries – 428 mil. cm
- 163 mil. cm RWE coming from non EU Countries
- Imports wood EU: 57% wood products, pulp and paper 43%
- Round wood imports: 81% from Eastern Europe, especially from Russia (main trade between Russia and Finland)
- 43% of wood based imports come from Eastern Europe, including Russia

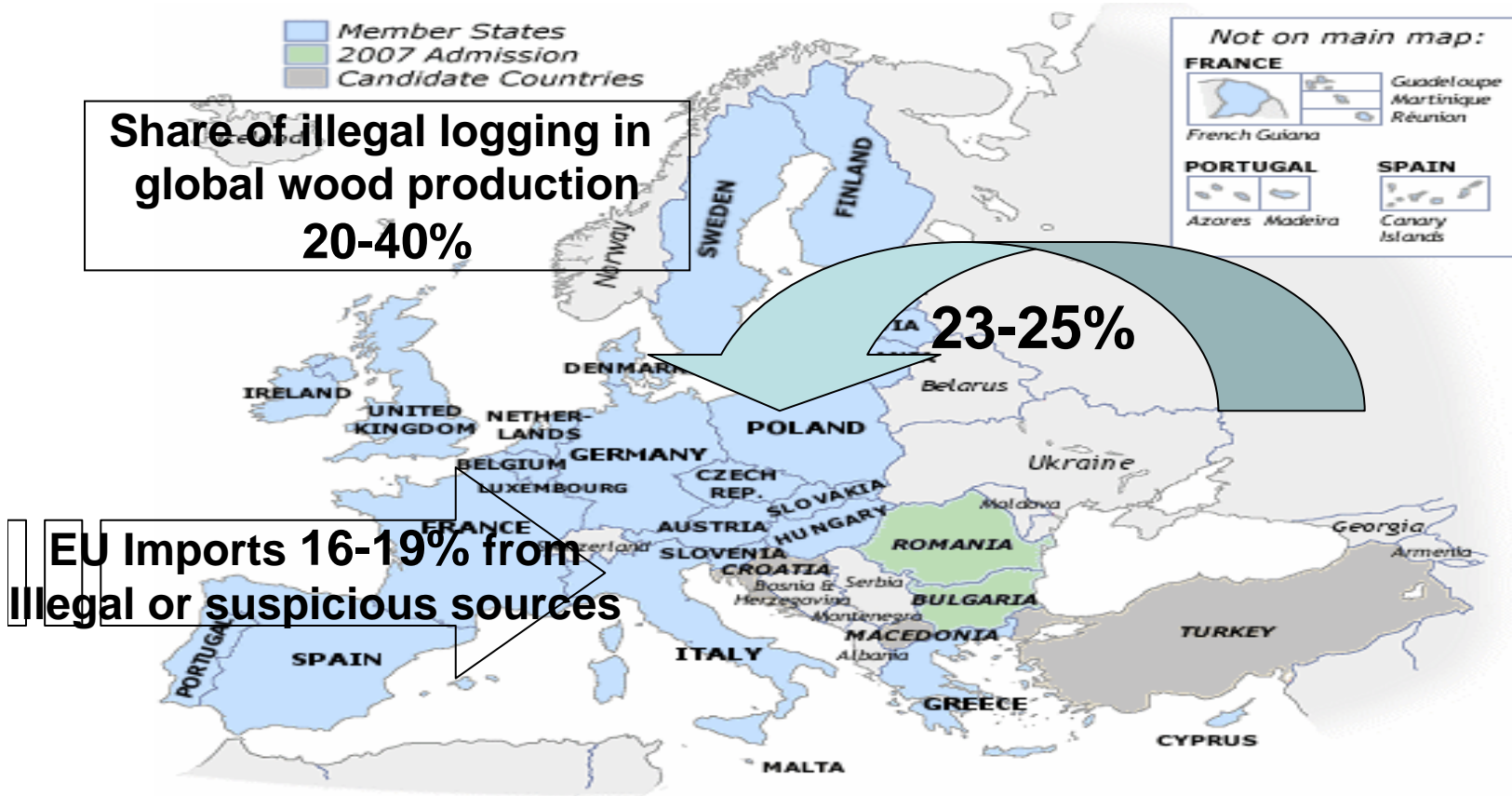




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# EU and FLEG(T)

## Illegal Logging estimates





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## EU and FLEG(T) Background

- Forest exploitation is an important source of state revenue
- Forests are a vital asset in rural areas, especially for poor communities
- Forests ensure a healthy environment (water quality, climate, wildlife habitat)
- Major loss of state revenue due to illegal logging
- Poor governance and legal environment, including law implementation support illegal logging
- Excessive rate of unsustainable forest exploitation and conversion





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# EU FLEG(T) Action Plan

## Origin

Forest Law Enforcement on Governance			
Asia FLEG	ENA FLEG	AFLEG	EU FLEGT
South East Asia	Europe and North Asia	Africa	European Union
<b>Starting Point:</b> Bali Conference 2001 <i>Bali Declaration</i>	<b>Starting point:</b> St. Petersburg 2005 <i>St. Petersburg Declaration</i>	<b>Starting point:</b> Yaounde Conference 2003 <i>Yaounde Declaration</i>	<b>Starting Point:</b> WSSD Johannesburg 2003 <b>EU FLEGT Action Plan 2003</b>





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# EU FLEG(T) Action Plan

## Contents

Supply	Consumption
<i>Improved Governance and capacity building</i>	<i>Reducing consumption and investment of EU</i>
<i>Voluntary Partnership Agreements on licencing schemes and related issues</i>	<i>Private sector initiatives for voluntary commitments</i>
	<i>EU Member States: adopt Green Public Procurement Policies</i>





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# EU and FLEG(T) Implementation

## Voluntary partnership agreements (VPAs)

- What do partner countries have to do?
- Define legality including all relevant stakeholders
- Develop a credible licencing scheme for legal timber exports
- Develop applicable, consistent, Sustainable Forest Management supportive forest law
- What do partner countries get out of it?
- Improved access to EU markets
- Priority for EU Development Assistance for FLEGT related measures
- Foundation framework for tracking and verification schemes from sustainably certified forests





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# EU and FLEG(T) Implementation

## Voluntary partnership agreements (VPAs)

### Good

- For the first time, all stakeholders come together to discuss issues of legality –common development of definition of legality
- Licencing schemes for legal timber exports are developed
- Stimulate discussions about „critical“ topics and underlying issues for illegal logging: land tenure rights, corruption (maybe you should not call it like that), lack of of forest governance
- EU helps countries that are willing to make a change with expertise and financial resources





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# EU and FLEG(T) Implementation

## Voluntary partnership agreements (VPAs)

### Problematic

- **Does not address majority of countries**

VPA negotiations are taking place with the following countries at the moment: Indonesia, Malaysia, Congo, Cameroon, finalized: Ghana

Countries like Russia or China are not in negotiations at the moment.

- **VPAs only address a limited range of products:**

Covered are: roundwood, sawnwood, tramway sleepers, veneer, plywood, secondary products like paper or furniture are not included unless the partner country negotiates this separately

- **Circumvention possible**

The VPAs will only address the direct trade between the EU and the partner country. Imports from those countries over a third country (e.g. Russia or China) would remain unaffected unless the partner country expands the validity of the VPA

- **Risk of laundering:** The partner countries do only check the legal import of the wood or wooden products in the partner country (not the legal origin of the wood)- imported wood could get legalised through import and exported to the EU





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# VPAs - global significance for WWF

**if they prove to be successful**

- Voluntary Partnership agreements could be a model for bi-lateral agreements between countries worldwide
- Results of negotiations for VPAs will be a good analysis about problems of illegal logging, traceability and certification worldwide as well as way to address the problems
- Countries agreeing to VPAs could influence export/import countries on addressing Illegal Logging
- The VPAs could be a model for agreements between countries on other products (palm oil, soy etc.) and in other areas (REDD)



# Legislative option – WWF view

## Legislation within the EU is needed as:

- Private Sector Voluntary Schemes will never include all industry and standard of schemes vary greatly
- Voluntary Partnership Agreements will not cover all products or all countries
- To level the playing field in Europe as illegal timber will always be cheaper than legal timber
- To close the gaps in the FLEGT process (e.g. in the VPAs)
- Give a (good and practical) example for other countries on how to engage in illegal logging (US, Japan)





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## Legislative option – WWF view

### Legislation should address the following:

- Ensure that only timber products from legal and well managed forests are placed on the EU market (long term goal but not necessarily for legislation is to achieve sustainability)
- Define range of compliance issues to be addressed in assessing, whether timber is legally sourced
- Provide for a standardised legal verification systems that should be applied, including effective traceability and Chain of Custody systems
- Cover all wooden products
- Address illegal logging within the EU

