



WWF

ACTION PLAN



2014



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Taking action to stop the trade in illegal timber in the European Union by adopting the EU Timber Regulation, which came into force 2013, has been a ground-breaking development. The support of WWF and other environmental NGOs has been crucial in achieving this new law. Strong and proper implementation of the legislation is now needed across all EU Member States to make the EUTR effective and loopholes in product scope of the regulation need to be closed.

Satu Hassi –
Former Greens/EFA
MEP and rapporteur on the EU
Timber Regulation

STOP ILLEGAL TIMBER TRADE

As one of the world's largest wood consumers, the EU has the responsibility to ensure that its global wood demand does not lead to the illegal exploitation and destruction of forests, wildlife and the jeopardising of the well-being of local communities. In some countries outside the EU, illegal logging accounts for as much as 90% of all logging¹.

Despite the entry into force of the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) in 2013, which aims to halt the trade in illegal timber in Europe, illegally harvested timber and timber products are still entering the EU. The lack of proper implementation of the law by many EU Member States is the main reason for this, as recently highlighted by the European Commission² and by WWF³.

Allowing illegal products onto the EU market damages European companies that are committed to follow the rules and puts the international credibility of the EU at risk. A review of the EUTR is scheduled for 2015, during which the product scope of the EUTR needs to be amended to have all timber related products relevant for the EU market covered by the legislation.

HOW CAN MEPs IMPROVE THIS POLICY?

- Ensure all 28 EU Member States have appropriate national legislation in place, including effective penalties and sanctions and properly enforce the EUTR.
- Extend the product scope of the EUTR to all timber and timber related products relevant for the EU market during its review in 2015, to ensure a level playing field in the EU.

2 sec

Every two seconds an area of forest the size of a football field is clear-cut by illegal loggers around the globe⁴

YOUR ACTION PLAN

- 1 Raise parliamentary questions to the Commission and Council regarding the effective implementation of the EU Timber Regulation.
- 2 Urge the Commission to ensure proper implementation in all EU Member States and to take legal action against non-compliant countries.
- 3 Urge your national governments to properly implement and enforce the EU Timber Regulation.
- 4 In preparation for the review of the EU Timber Regulation, call on the Commission to include all timber and timber related products relevant for the EU market in the product scope of the EU Timber Regulation.

TIMELINE

By 30 April 2015:
EU Member States report to the Commission on the implementation of the EUTR

By 3 December 2015:
Commission's review of the effectiveness and the functioning of the EUTR

WE MUST ACT NOW!

- Illegal logging of forests is estimated to generate between US\$10 and 15 billion in criminal proceeds annually. It damages legitimate operators, locally and in Europe, causes deforestation, biodiversity loss, increases greenhouse gas emissions, and also threatens the livelihood of local communities⁵.
- Illegal timber accounts for 30% of the global timber trade and contributes to more than 50% of tropical deforestation in Central Africa, the Amazon and South East Asia⁶.
- In 2011 the EU accounted for 35 % (€37.8 billion) of the global trade of primary timber products⁷. As acknowledged by the European Commission, even if it is difficult to estimate what percentage of this trade was in illegally harvested timber, the EU is an important export market for countries where levels of illegality and poor governance in the forest sector are most serious.



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