

Liberia – EU FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement
AIDE MEMOIRE
FIRST MEETING OF THE JOINT IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
Monrovia May 27-29th, 2014

Introduction

1. Following the entry into force of the VPA December 1st, 2013, the first joint Implementation Committee (JIC) to oversee the implementation of the FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between Liberia and the EU, took place in Monrovia on May 27-29th, 2014. The meeting was co-chaired by Honorable Florence Chenoweth, Minister of Agriculture, Republic of Liberia and Ambassador Attilio Pacifici, Head of EU Delegation to Liberia.
2. The Liberian team included representation from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry Development Authority (FDA), Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, National Bureau of Concessions, Environmental protection agency (EPA), civil society and the private sector. The EU team included representation from the EU Delegation, the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and experts from the EU FLEGT Facility. A participant list is attached as an annex to this aide memoire.

VPA oversight and management structures

3. Draft rules of procedure for the functioning of the JIC and arbitration procedures for the VPA, shared by the EU prior to the meeting, were discussed. The Government of Liberia (GoL) would wish to be more precise on certain aspects of the arbitration procedures and will send their comments on both documents for the consideration of the EU. It is expected that the rules of procedure and the arbitration procedures will be formally adopted in the second meeting of the JIC.
4. A draft structure for the JIC annual report was presented by the EU. It will be sent to LIC for further comments and approval. It was agreed that the FLEGT Facilitator and the VPA Support Unit will be in charge of drafting the report in collaboration with the stakeholders and the EU. European Forest Institute (EFI) will provide support to editing, layout and printing. The first formal report will cover the year 2014 and will be finalized in the first quarter of 2015.
5. To oversee the implementation of the agreement on the Liberian side, the Liberia Implementation Committee (LIC) has been established comprising of representatives of different government ministries and agencies, civil society and industry. In addition to the LIC, a broader National Multi-Stakeholder Monitoring Committee (NMSMC), including community representatives, has been established and is meeting monthly. Terms of Reference and operating procedures for the NMSMC have been approved and are annexed to this aide memoire. The exact number of representatives for each participant group remains to be agreed.
6. To strengthen coordination between Ministries and the government agencies involved an Inter-agency coordination committee has been inaugurated.

