

European Federation of Parquet Importers concerned about new illegal logging regulation

Basically the European Federation of Parquet Importers welcomes European efforts to address the challenge of illegal logging. The leading industry group of wood flooring importers to Europe fully supports the efforts of the EU to promote sustainable forest management and the EU action plan for forest law enforcement, governance and trade (FLEGT).

However, EFPI maintains that the proposed Regulation, which includes mandatory due diligence to deal with the legality of wood products placed on the EU market, fails to effectively deal with the problem of illegal

timber. EFPI believes that the lack of an internationally agreed definition of legality in the context of timber trade would cause difficulties in implementing this legislative measure. Secondly, timber products such as engineered parquet, which is made of different layers of wood coming from different places, along with the limited scope of certification systems pose substantial challenges of traceability for importers and public authorities.

The due diligence system proposed in the draft Regulation does not prohibit the placing on the market of illegally harvested

timber and derived products but instead requires operators to prove that they take sufficient care in controlling that they do not place illegally harvested timber in the community market. With such a system, EFPI considers that market players would have to take on the role of public authorities in policing products and trade.

The European Commission did not consult wood flooring importers on this initiative and did not take into consideration the comments spontaneously submitted by EFPI to its services.