



The European Federation of Parquet Importers (EFPI) is concerned about illegal logging and supports the EU action plan for forest law enforcement, governance and trade (FLEGT)

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As industry group of leading wood flooring importers into Europe, the European Federation of Parquet Importers (EFPI) fully supports the efforts of the European Union (EU) to promote sustainable forest management and combat illegal logging.

The pressing problems of illegally logged and traded timber and sustainable forestry are at the heart of EFPI's concern. These global issues constitute a key threat for many producing countries in the developing world by impacting deeply their economic, environmental and social situations. It is therefore the responsibility of consumer countries to avoid that timber and wood products are illegally sourced.

EFPI member companies purchase wood logs or ready made wooden products from some of the countries covered by the EU action plan for forest law enforcement, governance and trade (FLEGT) (e.g. from South East Asia) and they commit themselves to sourcing exclusively from partner companies in non-EU countries, which operate in a transparent way and according to European standards.

EFPI strongly welcomed FLEGT, which was launched in 2003 as a tool aimed at fighting illegal logging and its associated trade. EFPI members believe that only through cooperation with the EU Institutions, industry organisations and NGOs, this ambitious goal can be achieved.

For this reason, EFPI aims at actively contributing to the on-going discussions at European level to advance the creation of an effective system to prevent illegally logged wood or wooden products from entering the European market. EFPI, through its network of contacts and knowledge of the most exporting markets would also be in the position to play a part in and support the activities of the EU by promoting the benefits of joining the FLEGT scheme in partner countries.

Stopping illegal logging and trading would entail improved environmental, political, economic and social conditions in the non-EU producing regions, which would in turn provide a better trading field for European players such as EFPI and their partners, which solidly contribute to the development of the European forestry-based industry.

The European Federation of Parquet Importers (EFPI) is a Brussels-based association of leading European importers of engineered and solid wood floorings. EFPI was founded in June 2005 and aims to facilitate the discussion of ideas among importers about the promotion of wood flooring in Europe, to share information about EU legislation, standardisation and issues concerning international trade for the parquet industry.

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF PARQUET IMPORTERS