

Liberia – EU FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement
AIDE MEMOIRE
SEVENTH MEEETING OF THE JOINT IMPLEMENTATION
COMMITTEE
Monrovia, February 25-March 1, 2019

Introduction

1. The Seventh Joint Implementation Committee Meeting (JIC) to oversee the implementation of the FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between Liberia and the European Union (EU), was held in Monrovia from February 25-March 1, 2019. The meeting was co-chaired by Hon. Harrison S. Karnwea, Sr., Chair of the Board of Directors of the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), Republic of Liberia, and Ambassador H el ene Cav e, Head of the EU Delegation to Liberia. A participant list is attached as Annex 1 of this Aide Memoire.
2. During the opening of the technical sessions, on February 25th, the EU acknowledged that this JIC is very critical, and welcomed representatives of the Government of Liberia (GOL), the private sector, civil society, communities and other stakeholders to the meeting. The EU representative Mr. Ivan Borisavljevic, Head of Resilience section at the EU Delegation, indicated that he is new to EU Delegation in Liberia, and looks forward to having a good working relationship with the Government of Liberia.
3. Hon. C. Mike Doryen, Managing Director of FDA welcomed, on behalf of GoL, the different stakeholders, EU, and DFID. He also called for deliberations at the JIC to be conducted with a spirit of mutual respect in order for the EU and Liberia to arrive at satisfactory outcomes.

Progress with the Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS)

Overview since the last JIC and status of VPA implementation

4. The VPA Secretariat reminded the parties that the “Forward Planner” tool was developed to coordinate and track progress on all activities relating to VPA implementation. The Secretariat is responsible for capturing, through the Forward Planner, all implementation tasks carried out by Ministries, Agencies and other stakeholders. The Secretariat presented a status of activities since the last JIC in June 2018. The Secretariat then described the status of progress of the decisions taken at the last JIC. From the 14 decisions registered, 4 decisions were noted as completed, 9 in progress and 1 with no progress. According to the Forward Planner, the target timeframe for FLEGT licensing is 2020.
5. Following this presentation, the EU stressed the importance of maintaining the coordination between all Ministries and Agencies in the VPA implementation process. The EU further emphasized the need to use the Forward Planner to better understand and assess the gap between the expected situation and the actual situation. **The JIC agreed that further clarity is needed in the Forward Planner around what is meant by “in progress”. Reasons for potential delays need to be highlighted and target timeframes readjusted.**

