



What are the FLEGT Briefing Notes?

It is a series of eight briefing notes that explain aspects of the EU FLEGT Action Plan and Voluntary Partnerships Agreements. These are not official or legally binding documents, but they provide reliable information for VPA negotiation and implementation processes.

Who uses the briefing notes?

VPA negotiation and implementation teams, facilitators and experts use them to guide stakeholders through aspects of the VPA process.

Why did the EU update the briefing notes?

Some information became obsolete and was no longer accurate. Also, some terms used in VPA process have changed.



What is the scope of the update?

These are the areas where information was updated:

- **Existence of the EU Timber Regulation, now in force**
- **VPAs now exist, so verb tenses shifted from future to present**
- **Some key terms were changed or made consistent: independent auditing, timber tracking system, timber exporting country.**
- **Use of EU, not European Commission, after the Lisbon Treaty**
- **Including timber-exporting countries as VPA countries, including import timber in TLAS descriptions.**

Were there other changes?

Yes, we also made style and formatting changes:

- **Simpler illustrations, ease of reading**
- **Consistent headings and lists**
- **Typographic errors corrected**

What are the next steps?

- **Copies of Clean Version and version with track changes will be provided**
- **Agreement on No Objection Basis from Member States by 20th February 2015**
- **Layout and distribution of the briefing notes in English**
- **Translations into Spanish and French**
- **Layout and distribution of the translations**