



**EUFLEGT.EFI.INT**  
THE FOREST LAW ENFORCEMENT  
GOVERNANCE AND TRADE TEAM  
OF THE EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE

# **FLEGT:**

## **(Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade)**

# **Opportunities & challenges**

**Opening remarks**

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European Forest Institute – FLEGT

Asia

25 August 2010 IUFRO WC in Seoul

## **EU CONTEXT**

- **Domestic: over 90% of EU's timber home grown**
- **Domestic: EU net exporter of timber**
- **Domestic: EU average forest cover is 42.2% per country**
- **Domestic: EU forests grow ca 700k ha pa; 64% of annual growth cut**
- **Domestic: Increasing volumes certified legal timber**
- **Import: less than 10%; 1: China 2: US, Russia, Brazil 3: Switzerland, Norway, Canada 4: Indonesia, Malaysia, Chili 5: Vietnam**
- **Imports (particularly tropical timber) associated with trouble;**
- **an estimated 20% of imports is illegal**

## EU response: FLEGT

- **Civil society, industry, governments pressure: stop the EU acting as a market for illegally harvested timber**
- **2003 FLEGT Action Plan.** Towards SFM, good governance, transparency, halt deforestation, poverty eradication. **Encourage trade in guaranteed legal timber**
- **2013 all FLEGT elements operational.**
  - Voluntary Partnership Agreements
  - EU Illegal Timber Legislation (Due Diligence Regulation)
- **EU FLEGT Asia Program**, emphasis on new EU legislation; focus Mekong & China



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## **EU Timber Regulation - WHAT IS LEGAL?**

- Legality is defined on the basis of the applicable legislation of the country of harvest, covering:
  - **Rights to harvest** within legally gazetted boundaries;
  - **Payments for harvest rights and timber**, incl. duties related to timber harvesting;
  - **Timber harvesting**, incl. environmental and forest, **legislation**;
  - **Third parties' legal rights concerning use and tenure** affected by timber harvesting;
  - Forest sector-related **trade and customs legislation**.