

**Follow-up to the European Parliament non-legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the termination of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Cameroon on forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber and derived products to the European Union (FLEGT)**

- 1. Rapporteur:** Karin KARLSBRO (Renew / SE)
- 2. References:** 2024/0245M(NLE) / A10-0094/2025 / P10\_TA(2025)0119
- 3. Date of adoption of the resolution:** 17 June 2025
- 4. Competent Parliamentary Committee:** Committee on International Trade (INTA)
- 5. Brief analysis/ assessment of the resolution and requests made in it:** The European Parliament resolution confirms the proposal of the European Commission to terminate the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between the European Union and the Republic of Cameroon on forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber products to the European Union. Several requests were made and will be addressed in the section 6 below.
- 6. Response to requests and overview of actions taken, or intended to be taken, by the Commission:**

The European Commission welcomes the resolution of the European Parliament.

To address the concerns expressed in **paragraph 12, 13, and 20** the Commission confirms its commitment to continue working with the Government of Cameroon on forestry and to explore possibilities for constructive cooperation on areas of mutual interest such as combating illegal logging, supporting forest conservation and boosting economic cooperation and trade in line with the Global Gateway investment strategy which recognizes the key role of (export oriented) value chains. The Commission already engaged with the Government of Cameroon to achieve a consensual termination of the VPA, via a Joint Declaration. Under the framework of the Samoa Agreement, the EU-Cameroon partnership dialogue and other forms of bilateral interaction will allow the Commission to continue engaging with Cameroon on these issues regularly and productively. In line with **paragraph 17**, the Commission has proposed Cameroon a holistic approach to support forests, through a Forest Partnership. This approach aims at building on VPA elements such as governance, transparency, inclusive participation of civil society, local authorities and private sector enterprises and at addressing global challenges reflected in international objectives and commitments (UN 2030, Paris agreement, Kunming Montreal

Biodiversity Framework, Glasgow Declaration on Forest & Land Use etc.) such as climate change mitigation and biodiversity loss. The Forest Partnership also intends to mobilise all Team Europe actors and efforts as well as the existing Economic Partnership Agreement Cameroon / Central Africa to facilitate trade in sustainable and legal forest products. With regard to **paragraph 21**, Forest Partnerships aim at supporting compliance with the EU Deforestation Regulation through the development of wood traceability systems and deforestation-free measures and analytical tools.

Based on the experience and lessons learnt from the other Forest Partnerships, the Commission envisages a thorough consultation and participation of the different stakeholders during the negotiation of the Forest Partnership, which should fulfil the key principles of governance, transparency and inclusiveness. Based on the findings of various analyses of the Cameroon forest sector, the negotiations will take account of the shortcomings of the VPA as well as its successful elements. In line with **paragraph 19**, the Commission recognises the importance of the parliamentary oversight and monitoring of the VPA by the European Parliament and its relevant Committees, namely the Committee on International Trade. The Commission agrees to regularly report to the Parliament in a meaningful and timely fashion on the VPAs and Forest Partnerships and remains ready to continue presenting progress in the implementation of VPAs and/or Forest Partnership to the European Parliament.