

**Question for written answer E-015601/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Judith Sargentini (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement - Central African Republic

The FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between the EU and the Central African Republic was signed in 2011 and ratified in 2012. In March 2013 the country was taken over by a coalition of armed rebel groups, who deposed the President in a coup d'état and remained in power until January 2014. This period saw grave human rights violations and thousands killed. The conflict has continued since then, with the country effectively partitioned by armed groups. Logging companies have reportedly played a role in the financing of armed groups, whilst the timber has continued to enter the EU market. The Central African Republic was suspended from the Kimberley Process and EITI in 2013; however, the Commission made no statement about the status of the FLEGT VPA.

1. Can the Commission explain why no statement has been made regarding the status of the VPA since the outbreak of conflict?
2. Can the Commission provide an update on the VPA financing agreement with the Central African Republic, including details of current programmes under way or under consideration?