



# **EU - China Bilateral Coordination Mechanism (BCM) on Forest Law Enforcement and Governance**

Barcelona, 14 April 2015

## Key issues in this presentation:

Context

Overview

## Context

- FLEGT Action Plan:
  - FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs)
  - EU Timber Regulation
  - Bilateral dialogues
- The BCM Meetings were established following an EU-China FLEG Conference in Beijing 2007.
- March 2015: Sixth meeting of the dialogue.



# Overview

- Forum for a policy dialogue.
- Continued cooperation on both sides to share information on the respective policy and legal framework and maintain coordination on the respective initiative to combat illegal logging and associated trade.
- DG ENV and State Forestry Administration.
- The Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF) and the European Forest Institute (EFI) EU FLEGT Facility are the implementers of the work plan from China and EU sides respectively.
- EU Member States participate. Close collaboration in the field.

## Overview

- Working together with China in countries in South East Asia, Africa and in Russia to help eliminate illegal logging through combining capacity building with demand side measures in our markets.
- EU is the second largest forestry trade partner of China. The debate on its potential impacts on Chinese forest products export and how to comply with it continue to be heavily discussed in China.
- Potential movements towards developing an EUTR-like regulation in China have been registered. China is interested to share lessons learned about setting up a legality assurance system.

# Overview

- Key point: European Commission is not able to formally endorse any timber legality system other than FLEGT VPAs (or CITES permits). Thus it would be up to EU operators to assess whether any system that China might develop would enable them to exercise their due diligence obligation effectively.



**Thank you!**