



## EU – GHANA TIMBER TRADE AND INVESTMENT FORUM

2 June 2026 · 14:00–18:30 · Canopée 1, Parc des Expositions de la Beaujoire, Nantes, France

Ghana became the second FLEGT Licensing country worldwide — and the first in Africa — as of 10 April 2025, with licensing live since 8 October 2025. The EU is Ghana's largest market for value-added wood products (approximately EUR 26 million in 2024). FLEGT licences demonstrate to buyers that Ghana's timber exports are 100% legal, traceable and sourced from responsibly managed forests.

Ghana is also implementing a Forest Plantation Strategy (2016–2040) promoting large-scale plantation development through partnerships with communities, private sector actors and development partners. EU forest industry holds leading expertise in plantation management and digital solutions — Smart Forestry tools, remote sensing technology and more — creating significant potential for Ghana–EU collaboration.

### OBJECTIVE

The Forum aims to increase the market visibility of Ghana's FLEGT timbers and promote trade and investment between forest-based industries in Ghana and the EU. It provides an opportunity for Ghana's forest industry to present their aspirations, sectorial strengths, timber quality, species diversity, legality, sustainability and innovation. It also provides EU public and private sector actors with an opportunity to share updates on market trends, legislative and market requirements, green finance, innovation and digital solutions for forest-based industries.

### PROGRAMME

TIME	SESSION
14:00 – 14:10	<p><b>01 Opening Remarks</b></p> <p>Moderated by: Mark van Benthem, Director of Stichting Probos  <b>Tilia Guerin-Calmettes</b>, DG INTPA European Commission  <b>Boakye Akyeampong</b>, Director of Timber Validation Department, Ghana Forestry Commission</p>
14:10 – 14:30	<p><b>02 Keynote Speeches</b></p> <p>Moderated by: Mark van Benthem, Director of Stichting Probos</p> <p><b>EU Tropical Timber Market Update</b> — Demand trends from major end-use sectors, EUDR and CITES requirements, market expectations and opportunities for FLEGT-licensed timber from Ghana.  <i>By Ingrid Hontis, Sustainability Manager at Fedustria</i></p> <p><b>Ghana Forest Industry Update</b> — Experiences with FLEGT licensing since Go-Live day, Lesser-Known Timber Species (LKTS), innovation and industry development trends.</p>

By Dr. Richard Gyimah, Executive Director of the Timber Industry Development Division (TIDD), Ghana Forestry Commission

**14:30 – 15:00**

**03 Panel Discussion: Potential EU–Ghana Collaboration in Forest-Based Industry**

Moderated by: Gao Ya, Forestry Officer at FAO

Topics:

- Ghana Plantation Strategy — implementation status, challenges and aspirations for international collaboration
  - EU Smart Forestry technologies and applications in forest plantation management
  - Potential collaboration between Ghana and EU/private sector in forest plantation and investment in timber processing technology for efficient resource utilisation and environmental quality
- Q&A

Panellists:

- Dr. Sylvain Caurla, Senior Sector Economist, European Investment Bank
- Dr. Richard Gyimah, Executive Director, TIDD of Ghana Forestry Commission
- Agyei Kwame, Manager, Plantations Investment & Extension, Forest Service Division of Ghana Forestry Commission
- Sergio Perez, Senior Loan Officer, European Investment Bank
- Dr. Jussi Rasinmäki, Head of AFRY Smart Forestry

**15:00 – 15:50**

**04 Mini Presentations by Ghanaian Wood Suppliers**

Moderated by: Eli Prins, Senior Forest Advisor, Stichting Probos

- Ghana Timber Millers Organization
- Samartex Timber and Plywood Company
- Sunstex Timber Company
- Logs and Lumber Limited
- SUHUMA-JCM
- Logs Court
- Furnart Ghana
- Tekura Enterprise Ltd.

EU buyer's perspective by Jan Patrick Merten, Managing Director of Merten Woodproducts GmbH & Chair of Overseas Timber Committee of GD Holz

**16:00 – 18:30**

**05 Facilitated Business Matching**

Between Ghanaian timber suppliers and EU timber importers

Facilitated by: Eli Prins, Senior Forest Advisor, Stichting Probos

*Cocktail provided*

**Organised by**  
Ghana Forestry Commission · ATIBT ·  
Probos

**Contact**  
info@atibt.org

**Supported by**  
EU FLEGT VPA Programme · Global Gateway · AFD · EticWood ·  
e-sud · GFC