



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate F – Green Diplomacy & Multilateralism
ENV.F.1 – Planetary Common Goods, Universal Values & Environmental Security

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Dear Signatories,

Thank you for your letter dated 28 March 2024, addressed at Executive Vice-President and European Commissioner for Trade Valdis Dombrovskis, and expressing your concerns regarding the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

I have been asked to respond on his behalf.

The European Commission is fully committed to a smooth and effective implementation of the EUDR, which will help us curb deforestation and forest degradation and hence reduce greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss. We are working diligently with all stakeholders to ensure that the transition is manageable and that the rules deliver their intended benefits without imposing undue burdens.

Whilst the regulation is now in force, we continue to discuss pragmatic solutions that are respectful of the text of the law and address many of the implementation issues that have been raised. We have had numerous meetings with you and other relevant stakeholders, including via the Multi-Stakeholder Platform on Protecting and Restoring the World's Forests, and we are willing to continue to engage to ensure the success of the new law.

The new FAQ edition to be published in the coming weeks and the guidance document, as well as the progress that we are making in other streams of work, will address many of the concerns that you raise in your letter. The FAQs, for instance, will provide additional clarity and practical implementation solutions on issues like data protection, cattle-specific questions, or traceability for bulk and mixed products (including silos).

The concerns about the Information System have also been noted. The Commission is committed to putting in place an Application Programming Interface (APIs) that will allow for operators to connect their databases directly to the Information System and hence reduce red tape and the need for manual inputs to the minimum. At the same time, APIs will allow Member States to develop automatic connections with existing national

databases, for instance those used for the Animal Health Law or the Common Agricultural Policy – thereby potentially reducing the bureaucratic burden for EU producers.

The concerns about the delay in providing country benchmarking have been noted. The Commission can confirm that it has started working on the benchmarking and it will take the necessary time to develop a technically sound and scientific methodology, carry out a comprehensive assessment and, once preliminary results are available, engage in a dialogue with the countries identified as possible high risk (fully or in part).

We appreciate your continued cooperation and input as we refine the implementation process. The Commission values your role in this collective effort and is dedicated to maintaining an open and constructive dialogue to address any further concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Astrid LADEFOGED