



EU MINISTERS, COMMISSIONERS AND MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT:

the world is counting on you to adopt a strong EU regulation
on deforestation-free products

We, the undersigned organisations, call on you to ensure the swift adoption of a strong and ambitious EU regulation on deforestation-free products. As “trilogue negotiations” on this law begin, we ask you to support a law that lives up to the promises of the European Green Deal and the Sustainable Development Goals and upholds the EU’s commitments on climate, biodiversity and human rights.

This new law offers a historic opportunity to minimise the EU’s impact on forests and other valuable ecosystems within its own borders and around the world, as well as on the countless Indigenous and local communities living in and protecting forest areas.

Your choices will influence the fate of 80% of the world’s terrestrial biodiversity and shape the natural world that future generations inherit.

In 2020, over 1.2 million citizens called for a strong law. In 2022, over 100 civil society organisations from around the world called for a strong law and over 206,000 citizens called on their MEPs to deliver a strong law. Recent polls in Austria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and The Netherlands confirm substantial public support for a strong new law. EU citizens do not want products driving forest and ecosystem destruction or human rights abuses in their shopping baskets. The overwhelming support for this law shows that it deserves prioritisation and swift adoption. The increasing impacts of climate change and severity of droughts, fires, storms and floods affecting Europe and countries around the world shows that there is no time to lose.

Your deliberations will consider options of varying ambition. For this law to be effective, we urge you to agree a final text that includes the following best options on the table:

- 1.** A comprehensive list of commodities including, cattle, cocoa, coffee, soy, oil palm and wood, rubber, maize, sheep, goat and pig meat, poultry and the most derived products possible.
- 2.** Clear, robust and credible definitions set at EU level, including for “deforestation” and “forest degradation”, that effectively protect forests in and outside the EU.
- 3.** Immediate protection of “other wooded land” and a time-bound commitment to extend protection to other natural ecosystems (like savannahs, peatlands, wetlands) within one year.
- 4.** Protections for internationally-recognised human rights, particularly the rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and environmental and human rights defenders, and the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).
- 5.** Robust due diligence obligations for operators and large traders that require full traceability, based on geolocation, to all plots of land for all products without exceptions. Compliance should be confirmed in due diligence statements and the actions taken to comply should be detailed in periodic public reports.
- 6.** A limited role for third-party certification as “complementary information” that does not absolve operators or traders of their due diligence obligations, as proposed by the Commission.
- 7.** Equivalent due diligence obligations for EU-based financial institutions.
- 8.** A strong and comprehensive enforcement framework that includes mandatory minimum compliance checks as proposed by the Parliament, dissuasive and uniform penalties, and strong substantiated concern and access to justice mechanisms.
- 9.** A cut off date no later than 31 December 2019 as proposed by the Parliament.
- 10.** Measures to support vulnerable stakeholders in producing countries, in particular to empower Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, smallholders and civil society.

We are all counting on you to deliver a strong, ambitious and effective law. We will be following your deliberations closely and stand ready to support you in this vital effort.

Signed by 140+ civil society, smallholders’ and Indigenous Peoples’ organisations from 39 countries:

SIGNED

A ROCHA - Associação Cristã de Estudo e Defesa do Ambiente
Advocates for Public Interest Law
Amazon Watch
Appui pour la Protection de l'Environnement et le Développement (APED)
ARA (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Regenwald und Artenschutz)
Auriga Nusantara
Australian Forests and Climate Alliance (AFCA)
Avaaz
Bank Information Center
BankTrack
Biodiversity Conservation Center
Blue Dalian
Boreal Action
BOS+
Bosque Joven
Both ENDS
Brainforest
Brighter Green
Cabinet Essono Ondo pour le Social et l'Environnement (CEO-SE)
Canopée
Canopy
ClientEarth
Climate Action Network Europe
CNCD-11.11.11
Colectivo VientoSur
Comité Schone Lucht
Commission Justice & Paix
Compassion in World Farming
Conservation International Europe
COORDINADORA ESTATAL DE COMERCIO JUSTO
Corporate Europe Observatory
Deutsche Umwelthilfe e. V.
Deutscher Naturschutzring (DNR)
DIB
DKA Austria
Docip
DOF BirdLife Danmark
Donau Soja Association
Earthbilt
Ecologistas en Acción
Ecosia
Ekumenická akademie
Environment East Gippsland inc
Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)
Environmental Rights Action/ Friends of the Earth Nigeria
Envol Vert
Eurogroup for Animals
European Vegetarian Union
Fairwatch

Federación de Consumidores y Usuarios CECU
Feedback EU
Feedback Global
Focus Association for Sustainable Development
Forest Peoples Programme
Forests of the World
Forêts et Développement Rural (FODER)
Fórum Nacional de Proteção e Defesa Animal
Forum Ökologie & Papier
Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland
Friends of the Earth Europe
Gemeinwohlstiftung COMÚN / Initiative Lieferkettengesetz Österreich
GEOTA-Grupo de Estudos de Ordenamento do Território e Ambiente
Germanwatch e.V.
GLOBAL 2000
Global Forest Coalition
Global Nature Fund
Global Witness
Global Youth Biodiversity Network Europe (GYBN Europe)
Green Development Advocates
Green Impact
Greenpeace European Unit
HUTAN Group
IDEF
Inades-Formation Côte d'Ivoire
Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy (ELSAM)
Instituto Jane Goodall España
Instituto Sociedade, População e Natureza
Jane Goodall Institute Austria
Jane Goodall Institute Belgium
Jane Goodall Institute France
Japan Tropical Forest Action Network
Landelijk Netwerk Bossen- en Bomenbescherming
Leefmilieu
Lipu - BirdLife Italy
Mai bine
Mighty Earth
Milieudefensie - Friends of the Earth Netherlands
Milieufront Omer Wattez vzw
Mobilisation for the Environment
Mouvement Ecologique asbl.
NABU (Naturschutzbund Deutschland) e.V.
Nature Nova Scotia
Naturefriends Greece
Natuurpunt
Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP) Asia
Nyt Europa
Observatoire de la Gouvernance Forestière OGF
Observatório do Clima (Brazilian Climate Observatory)
Oil Palm Smallholders Union/ Serikat Petani Kelapa Sawit (SPKS)

OroVerde
Polski Klub Ekologiczny
Pro REGENWALD
Profundo
Quercus - Associação Nacional de Conservação da Natureza
Rainforest Action Network
Rainforest Foundation Norway
Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific
Reseau des Organisations de la Société Civile pour le Développement du Tonkpi (ROSCIDET)
Rikolto België vzw
ROBIN WOOD e. V.
SATYA BUMI
SEO/BirdLife
Society for threatened peoples Switzerland
Socio-ecological union International
Solsoc
Solutions for Our Climate
Stand.earth
Stowarzyszenie Pracownia na rzecz Wszystkich Istot
Südwind
SumOfUs
Sustainable Development Institute (SDI)
Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
Synaparcam
The Wilderness Society
Ukrainian Nature Conservation Group
Umanotera, The Slovenian Foundation for Sustainable Development
Veblen Institute
Vision Building Future Pakistan
Voedselteams vzw
Vogelbescherming Nederland
WALHI (Friends of the Earth Indonesia)
Welthaus Diözese Graz-Seckau
WeMove Europe
Wetlands International European Association
Working group Food Justice
World Animal Protection
World Animal Protection Netherlands
WWF European Policy Office (EPO)
Yayasan Pusaka Bentala Rakyat
ZERO - Associação Sistema Terrestre Sustentável
PowerShift e.V.

PORTUGAL
A ROCHA
Crecer, Cuidar e Transformar



SFO°C
Solutions for Our Climate



BANKTRACK



Brainforest



canopy



ClientEarth



ECOSIA



EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS



FEED BACK EU

FEEDBACK





