

Statement

*“Business leaders support bold EU actions to eliminate imported deforestation”
Bold commitment to end deforestation start with traceability requirement when entering the EU
internal market*

We are 11 businesses across the value chain – from suppliers to manufacturers and retailers - that request strong EU actions to eliminate imported deforestation, starting with traceability when entering the EU internal market.

Global deforestation is a pressing challenge for society and for our companies. We acknowledge that our businesses have a responsibility in this fight because our supply chains are global and include commodities that may contribute to deforestation. This is why we are committed to ending deforestation in our supply chains and have implemented measures to this end over the last ten years.

However, despite progress, deforestation is continuing at alarming rates. Deforestation does not only impact the climate - it is also linked to biodiversity loss and an increased risk of pandemics. That is why putting an end to deforestation once and for all must be an urgent priority for our businesses and for the world.

Supply chain traceability and transparency for at-risk commodities is fundamental to driving systemic change. As stated in the European Green Deal, as the world’s largest single market, the European Union (EU) can set standards that apply across global value chains. The EU is therefore in a strong position to promote more sustainable sourcing of commodities globally through trade. True to its potential, the EU has been actively promoting trade as a tool to foster sustainability both globally and within trade partner countries, including in the vision laid out by the European Green Deal.

Businesses like ours need a clear legal framework that puts all companies on a level playing field, gives all supply chains actors incentives to address risks of deforestation, collectively fosters transparency, provides a realistic timeline for implementation and works to support farmers and their communities. To this end, we ask the Commission to explore the strengthened use of the innovative technology such as satellite monitoring. Indeed, information related to the origin of the products, when entering in the Union’s internal market, should be made available by leveraging techniques such as GPS coordinates for these commodities.

Looking forward, we also call on the European Commission and Member States to strengthen cooperation with producing countries through technical assistance; exchange of information; trade and other incentives; and good practices in the preservation, conservation, and sustainable use of forests.

We consider that the future EU legal framework to halt and reverse EU-driven global deforestation must be ambitious in its efforts to increase global value chain transparency and accountability. This will be good for our planet, for our business, and for a fair international trade system.

Signatories

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