Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission
European Commission

By electronic mail

Brussels, 11. April 2024

Re: Implementation of the EU Deforestation Regulation

Dear President,

We are writing to you to reiterate our full support for the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). In response to the global biodiversity and climate crises, you and your Commission introduced this landmark legislation in November 2021 to combat and accelerate the end of global deforestation. This legislation, the first of its kind in the world, is intended to guarantee that EU citizens’ consumption of key forest-risk commodities does not contribute to the destruction of irreplaceable forests, from the tropics to Europe and beyond.

The EUDR entered into force in June 2023 after having been adopted with broad support from the Council and Parliament. EU Member States and the Commission must now swiftly implement this law and ensure it is complied with by all relevant actors. This legislation was introduced to create a level playing field in the market after the failure of many years of voluntary pledges by the private sector to address deforestation in their supply chains. It is a crucial part of ensuring that the EU meets the commitments made by parties to the UN Climate Convention at COP28 in December 2023: ‘[…] conserving, protecting and restoring nature and ecosystems towards achieving the Paris agreement temperature goal’ and ‘halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030’, but also to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at the UN Biodiversity Conference at COP15 in December 2022. In light of these international commitments, the decision by the Commission last year to award a tender for the targeted reviews foreseen under Article 34 (para. 1-4) of the EUDR is a welcome, necessary step forward.

Given the worsening climate and biodiversity crises, it is crucial for this generation and future generations that the actions required of the Commission and Member States under the EUDR are carried out on time. The destruction of forests and ecosystems continues unabated with considerable impact on the rights and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and of communities who rely on forests and other ecosystems, and with consequences already being felt within the EU through worsening droughts and forest fires. The EU urgently needs to break away from a production and consumption model that fuels nature destruction and threatens human rights and farming livelihoods.

We are aware that certain industry associations, third countries and even agriculture ministers from EU Member States are criticising the EUDR or certain aspects of it, risking undermining it, despite years of research, consultation, and an open, and transparent legislative process.
We urge you to protect the integrity of the EU democratic decision-making process and to ensure that the EU stands firm in pursuing the objectives set out in the EUDR. Political leadership, as reflected with the development of the Green Deal, shows long-term vision, which is needed for this global crisis. We trust that you will stand by the commitment you made to EU citizens and uphold the law that you and your Commission proposed - and that the Council and Parliament overwhelmingly approved - by ensuring its proper and swift implementation.

We would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss the details of this important matter further with you, and look forward to hearing from you regarding a suitable date and time for a meeting.

SIGNATORIES

11.11.11, Belgium
Acréscimo, Associação de Promoção ao Investimento Florestal
Adiconsum APS - Italian Association for Consumer Protection
AidEnvironment
A ROCHA - Associação Cristã de Estudos e Defesa do Ambiente
Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB)
Association Biom, BirdLife Croatia
Associação Alternativa Terrazul
Auriga Nusantara, Indonesia
Australian Conservation Foundation
A Vida no Cerrado (AVINC)
BALKANI Wildlife Society
BIAZA
Biodiversity Conservation Center
BirdLife Europe
BirdLife Sweden
Bond Beter Leefmilieu
BOS+
Both ENDS
Bruno Manser Fonds
Calla - Sdružení pro záchranu prostředí, z.s.
Canopée
Canopy
Center for Environment / FoE Bosnia and Herzegovina
Český svaz ochránců přírody Morava
Chester Zoo
CIPRA Deutschland e.V.
CIPRA France
CIPRA Slovenija, društvo za varstvo Alp
Čisté nebe o.p.s.
ClientEarth
Climate Rights International
CNCD-11.11.11, Belgium
Comité Schone Lucht
Commerce Equitable France
Compassion in World Farming EU
ČSOP Arion
ČSOP Hradec Králové
Czech Society for Ornithology
Dachverband für Natur- und Umweltschutz (CIPRA Südtirol)
Dauerwaldstiftung in Pommern
Destilator klub
Děti Země (Children of the Earth), Czech Republic
Deutscher Naturschutzzring (DNR)
Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V. (Environmental Action Germany)
Dogwood Alliance
DOPPS - BirdLife Slovenia
Earthsight
ECODEV
Ecologistas en Acción
Ecosia
Ekumenická akademie, Czech Republic
Endangered Species Coalition
Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)
Environmental Justice Foundation
Environment Centre NT
Envol Vert
Eurogroup for Animals
European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA)
European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
European Vegetarian Union
FDCL-Forschungs- und Dokumentationszentrum Chile-Lateinamerika e.V.
Federazione Nazionale Pro Natura
Fern
Finnish Association for Nature Conservation
Focus Association for Sustainable Development
Fondazione Internazionale LUMEN
Forest Peoples Programme
Forests of the World (Verdens Skove)
Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) International
Forum Ökologie & Papier
France Nature Environnement
Friends of the Earth Europe
Fundación Internacional para la Restauración de Ecosistemas
GEOTA-Grupo de Estudos de Ordenamento do Território e Ambiente
GLOBAL 2000 - Friends of the Earth Austria
Global Canopy
Global Forest Coalition (GFC)
Global Justice Ecology Project
Global Nature Fund (GNF)
Global Witness
Great Lakes and Wetlands Association, Hungary
Green Development Advocates (GDA)
Greenpeace
Green Transition Denmark
Hnutí DUHA - Friends of the Earth CR
Human Rights Watch
HUTAN
Iepé - Instituto de Pesquisa e Formação Indígena
IFOAM Organics Europe
INKOTA-netzwerk, Germany
Instituto Centro de Vida
Instituto Cerrados
Instituto Jane Goodall España
Instituto Pato-mergulhão
Instituto Sociedade, População e Natureza (ISPN)
International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)
Jane Goodall Institute Belgium
Jane Goodall Institute France
JARO Jaroměř
JARO Österreich
Koalice pro řeky
Landelijk Netwerk Bossen- en Bomenbescherming
Leefmilieu
Lipu-BirdLife Italia
Luontoliitto (the Finnish Nature Association)
Mighty Earth
Milieudefensie - Friends of the Earth Netherlands
Mouvement écologique
NABU (The Nature And Biodiversity Conservation Union) Germany
Natagora
Natural Forest Academy, Germany
Naturefriends Greece
Nature Nova Scotia
Natuurpunt
Netzwerk gerechter Welthandel
Notre Affaire à Tous
NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council)
Observatório do Clima (Brazilian Climate Observatory)
Observatory for Socio-environmental Conflicts in Matopiba - Brazil
OroVerde - Tropical Forest Foundation
Palm Oil Watch International
Partners of Community Organisations in Sabah (PACOS TRUST)
Polish Ecological Club (Main Board)
Polish Ecological Club Mazovian Branch
Prague pasture (Pražská pastvina)
Pro REGENWALD
Public Eye
Queensland Conservation Council
Quercus
Rainforest Action Network
Rainforest Alliance
Rainforest Foundation Norway
RCA - Rede de Cooperação Amazônica
Reformaten
Re-set: platform for socio-ecological transformation
Rettet den Regenwald e.V.
Rights and Resources Initiative
ROBIN WOOD
Saami Council
Salva la Selva
Sangga Bumi Lestari
Satya Bumi
Save Estonia's Forests (Päästame Eesti Metsad)
SAVE Rivers
Sawit Watch
Service d’Appui aux Initiatives Locales de Développement (SAILD)
Slovene Dragonfly Society
Socio-Ecological Union International
Solsoc
Südwind, Austria
Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
Teraju Indonesia
The Association of Naturalists OSTOJA, Poland
The Lifescape Project
The Wilderness Society, Australia
Transición Verde
TROCA - Plataforma por um Comércio Internacional Justo
Uma Gota no Oceano
Umanotera, The Slovenian Foundation for Sustainable Development
Umweltinstitut München e.V.
Unión Vegetariana Española
Vegetarian Society of Denmark
Westpapua-Netzwerk
Wetlands International Europe
Wild Europe Foundation
Wild Heritage
World Animal Protection
World Forest ID
WWF European Policy Office
ZERO - Associação Sistema Terrestre Sustentável

LOGOS