



# 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  
Milieudéfense - 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**  
Cier, Cuidar e Transformar



**SFO°C**  
Solutions for Our Climate



**BANKTRACK**



**Brainforest**



**canopy**



**ClientEarth**



**ECOSIA**



**EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS**



**FEED BACK EU**

**FEEDBACK**





