

**Question for written answer E-002735/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Ciaran Mullooly (Renew)

Subject: Derogation from the EU Deforestation Regulation

The forestry sector is vital to Ireland's economy. It supports rural communities and generates local employment.

Irish forestry is characterised by sustainable practices that emphasise biodiversity and afforestation efforts. Ireland's forestry practices are rigorously enforced and are certified by international certification bodies such as the Forest Stewardship Council. Irish forestry is regulated by a strict licensing regime, which obliges all felling to be replanted within two years. Therefore, the risk of deforestation in Ireland should be considered very low.

The EU Deforestation Regulation¹, while essential for tackling deforestation globally, imposes disproportionate regulatory and administrative burdens on Member States such as Ireland.

Ireland has a low-risk status with regard to deforestation. In line with EU proposals that Member States should have greater flexibility in implementing EU regulations that are fit for purpose in their regions and in line with the risk assessment and simplified due diligence provisions of the Deforestation Regulation, can the Commission confirm whether it has considered differentiated approaches such as a derogation within the EU Deforestation Regulation for countries, such as Ireland, whose forestry practices are tightly regulated?

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¹ Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of 31 May 2023 on the making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation, OJ L 150, 9.6.2023, p. 206, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/1115/oj>.