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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.10.2024)

Union's consumption is a considerable driver of deforestation and forest degradation on a global scale. An extensive review of scientific literature¹ estimating the impact of EU consumption on global deforestation and linking that footprint to specific commodities was carried out under the Impact Assessment² underpinning the Commission proposal for a regulation on deforestation-free products³. The Impact Assessment found that the main driver of global deforestation is the conversion of forests to agricultural land for the production of commodities such as cattle, palm oil, soy, timber, coffee, cocoa and rubber, and the EU, as a major consumer market of these commodities, has a responsibility to address deforestation driven by its consumption.

The Deforestation Regulation⁴ has a progressive scope that will be reviewed regularly pursuant to Article 34.

Article 30 of the Regulation provides for a coordinated approach to the cooperation with third countries to jointly address the root causes of deforestation and forest degradation. The Commission stepped up engagement with producer countries through dialogue and partnerships since the entry into force of the EU Deforestation-free Regulation (EUDR), and will continue to do so, using existing and future cooperation mechanisms. The Union strategic framework for such engagement provided for in Article 30 is under finalisation. Partnerships and cooperation are notably intended to support inclusive and participatory dialogue towards governance reform processes to enhance forest governance and address domestic factors contributing to deforestation. Furthermore, the Commission engages in bilateral and multilateral discussions with other major consuming countries to raise environmental standards globally.

¹ SWD/2021/326 final.

² SWD/2021/327 final.

³ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/proposal-regulation-deforestation-free-products_en

⁴ Adopted by the European Parliament and Council: Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council 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 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 995/2010, OJ L 150, 9.6.2023, p. 206–247.