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E-001552/2024

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.11.2024)

1. The Commission has presented a comprehensive package to support the implementation of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)¹, including the proposal² of a 12-month phasing-in period to allow companies more time to prepare. If the one-year extension is approved by the European Parliament and the Council, the obligations laid down in EUDR³ will apply from 30 December 2025 for medium and large companies, and from 30 June 2026 for micro and small enterprises.
2. The benchmarking system to classify countries or parts thereof according to the deforestation risk and the respective list of countries or parts thereof will be adopted at the latest six months before the new date of application, according to the Commission's proposal. The Commission's methodology is firmly rooted in a commitment to fairness, objectivity and transparency; the same assessment criteria will be applied to the Member States and to countries outside the EU.
3. The EUDR indeed aims to minimise red tape. Upstream operators (those placing on the EU market or exporting from the EU market products that have not been subject to due diligence previously) have full obligations. Downstream operators and traders (those below in the supply chain) have more limited obligations, in particular in the case of small and medium-sized enterprises and can rely on traceability information submitted previously in the supply chain.

¹ 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.

² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_5009

³ https://green-business.ec.europa.eu/publications/proposal-regulation-amending-deforestation-regulation-regards-date-application_en