

EN

E-001689/2024

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(8.11.2024)

1. The EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)¹, adopted by the European Parliament and the Council, includes several provisions to cater for the particular needs of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). All SME operators are exempted from annual reporting obligations and are subject to lighter requirements in terms of risk mitigation. In addition, SME downstream operators are to collect only limited information on traceability of operators in their supply chains and they do not need to exercise due diligence and do not need to file due diligence statements for products that have been subject to due diligence further up the supply chain. Contrary to non-SME traders, SME traders do not need to check or submit due diligence statements for products that have been subject to due diligence before that up in the supply chain.
2. The Commission has presented a comprehensive package to support the implementation of the EU Deforestation Regulation, including the proposal of a 12-month phasing-in period to allow companies more time to prepare². If the one-year extension is approved by the European Parliament and the Council, the obligations laid down in EUDR requirements will apply from 30 December 2025 for medium and large companies, and from 30 June 2026 for micro and small enterprises.
3. Most European businesses are SMEs, they provide jobs to more than 85 million European citizens and are at the heart of innovation and entrepreneurship, central to Europe's competitiveness. The Commission is committed to supporting enterprises from the moment they start - throughout their lifetime. As stated above, the EUDR has specific clauses that cater to the needs of SMEs.

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