

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002347/24
to the Commission
Leire Pajín (S&D)
(30 October 2024)**

Subject: Fires in the Amazon and the application of Regulation 2023/1115 on deforestation-free products

In recent weeks we have seen alarming forest fires spreading in the Amazon. One of the key reasons for the increase in fires in the region is deforestation caused by human activity and climate change. A study ⁽¹⁾ has revealed that approximately 43% of fires in the Amazon since August 2019 have been linked to deforestation.

To combat global deforestation and reduce the fire risk and greenhouse gas emissions, the EU adopted Regulation 2023/1115 on deforestation-free products. In the application of that regulation, cooperation with partner countries is essential. The Commission has therefore announced the creation of a joint working group to promote and accelerate application of the regulation. However, its meetings have yet to include any country from the Amazon region.

In view of this:

1. Why has the Commission not established a joint working group with Amazon countries?
2. What mechanisms does the Commission have to facilitate and accelerate the application of this regulation in Amazon countries?

Submitted: 30.10.2024

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(10 January 2025)**

1. The Commission established an Ad Hoc Joint Task Force with Indonesia and Malaysia to discuss aspects of the implementation of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) ⁽¹⁾ with these countries. The last meeting of the Ad Hoc Joint Task Force was held in Brussels on 12 September 2024 ⁽²⁾. Amazon countries, including Brazil, have not expressed interest in the establishment of a similar formal mechanism to discuss the implementation of the EUDR until now. However, the Commission has carried out missions and held numerous meetings and dialogues with public and private stakeholders from these countries to discuss the implementation of the EUDR.

2. The Commission has stepped-up its engagement with partner countries, including Amazon countries such as Brazil, to explain the EUDR and its requirements. This engagement is also aimed at supporting partner countries in their transition to deforestation-free supply chains, for example by establishing traceability schemes, including through EU cooperation programmes and projects.

On 2 October 2024, the Commission released a communication on a ‘Strategic Framework for EUDR international cooperation’ ⁽³⁾ which outlines examples of projects supporting the EUDR implementation in the Amazon region and aimed at supporting the transition of the region towards deforestation-free value chains.

Finally, representatives of Amazon countries regularly attend the ‘Deforestation Multi-stakeholder platform’ ⁽⁴⁾, which is dedicated to the implementation of the EUDR.

¹ <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gcb.17202>

⁽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://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/malaysia/joint-press-release-3rd-meeting-ad-hoc-joint-task-force-eudr_en?s=170

⁽³⁾ Communication from the Commission on the Strategic Framework for International Cooperation Engagement in the context of Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 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 C, C/2024/6604, 7.11.2024.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/expert-groups-register/screen/meetings/consult?lang=en&meetingId=55862&fromExpertGroups=3282>