

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000755/25
to the Commission
Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE)
(19 February 2025)**

Subject: Impact of Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 on food prices and the trade practices of third-country producers

Following recent consultations with representatives of the food sector in the Czech Republic, I would like to draw the attention of the Commission to the potential impact 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.

According to the latest information, food producers from third countries where deforestation is taking place are planning to use this regulation to engage in commercial practices that could have a major impact on food prices in the EU. Specifically, they intend to export produce from areas affected by deforestation to Asia, while exporting goods from non-deforested areas to the EU at higher prices. This could result in a significant increase in food prices in the EU and the distortion of fair competition.

In the light of the foregoing:

1. Has the Commission analysed the potential impact of these trade practices on food prices in the EU?
2. Is the Commission aware of the risk of distortion of competition resulting from these strategies being employed by third-country producers?
3. What measures does the Commission plan to take to prevent these practices and to ensure price stability on the European food market?

Submitted: 19.2.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(30 June 2025)**

The Commission Impact Assessment ⁽¹⁾ underpinning the initial legislative proposal assessed the costs of compliance. These are significantly lower than the expected benefits.

The EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) ⁽²⁾ is expected to contribute to a minimum of 71 920 hectares of forest per year being less affected by EU-driven deforestation and forest degradation. This would mean a reduction of at least 31.9 million metric tons of carbon emitted to the atmosphere every year due to EU consumption.

The potential impact on the prices of final consumer goods, including food, is expected to be limited, based on the findings of the impact assessment, other reports on cost estimates of due diligence legislation, and the previous regulatory experience on wood ⁽³⁾.

The Impact Assessment also assessed the risk that producers may be tempted to separate their supply chains, selling deforestation-free products to the EU while continuing to sell non-deforestation-free products to other markets.

The benchmarking system provided in Article 29 of the EUDR is expected to create further incentives for producers to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and promote deforestation-free supply chains.

Additional measures that are being put in place by the EU are expected to help tackle this risk of leakage, including partnerships with producer countries combined with technical assistance.

Some industry sectors have shared evidence that EUDR deforestation-free requirements are being adopted by some companies for their global operations, not just for their EU sales.

⁽¹⁾ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/forests/deforestation/regulation-deforestation-free-products_en.

⁽²⁾ 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.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market, OJ L 295, 12.11.2010, p. 23-34.