

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002035/25
to the Commission
Roberto Vannacci (P/E)
(21 May 2025)

Subject: The need to revise Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 in order to protect the Italian and European leather sector

The Deforestation Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2023/1115) imposes burdensome obligations on operators in the Italian and European leather industry, a major employer and vital manufacturing sector ⁽¹⁾.

Also known as the EUDR, the regulation applies to cattle skins that are classified under customs codes 4101, 4104 and 4107 and imposes significant obligations on the entire sector.

Though the leather industry's activities do not in themselves cause deforestation, Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 makes it mandatory to provide geolocation and tracking data for each life stage of the animals concerned ⁽²⁾.

The regulation is, in addition, unclear on how to treat the skins of animals born between the regulation's date of entry into force and its date of application, and it is also ambiguous about the status of waste, by-products and certain species, including the buffalo.

Operators working in the leather sector must upload a due diligence statement for each batch of animal skins onto the EU's dedicated information systems. They bear full legal responsibility not only for these statements, but also for the data they receive from external suppliers who do not have reliable registration systems.

The EUDR could therefore make it harder to achieve its own objectives, seeing as its bureaucratic burdens could compel EU businesses to work with suppliers based in third countries where standards are less stringent.

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission not think that it should introduce procedural derogations to the EUDR in order to keep the EU's leather sector competitive, avoid relocations and prevent European companies from operating at a disadvantage?
2. If it does not, is it planning to extend the requirements mentioned above to finished products derived from partially processed skins?

Submitted: 21.5.2025

Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(26 August 2025)

The Commission is committed to implementing EU rules on deforestation in a spirit of close partnership, transparency, and open dialogue. Its aim is to reduce administrative burden for companies while preserving the goals of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission will continue to work very closely with all stakeholders, to ensure that EU rules deliver on reducing global deforestation and forest degradation in the least burdensome way for companies that should not jeopardise EU competitiveness.

On 15 April 2025, the Commission published a package ⁽²⁾ of measures ensuring further simplifications and reducing the administrative burden to facilitate the implementation of the EUDR. The package included a draft Delegated Act to provide further clarifications and simplification on the scope of EUDR.

The draft Delegated Act has been subject to the mandatory 4-week public consultation. The Commission is currently reviewing contributions received from stakeholders, including those provided by the leather sector.

¹ <https://www.laconceria.it/conceria/unic-e-i-sindacati-e-allarme-per-il-regolamento-deforestazione-ue>.

² <https://sustainability.unic.it/service/tracciabilita/>.

⁽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/api/files/document/print/en/ip_25_1063/IP_25_1063_EN.pdf.