

EN
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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.10.2025)

The benchmarking system of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)¹ is operated by the Commission with the support of a contract which has been subject to a call for tenders and Guidehouse Netherlands BV was awarded².

The contractor is supporting the Commission in fulfilling the tasks associated with the establishment and the operationalisation of a benchmarking system. The work is divided in two different parts.

The first part consists of building the system, including the data and information gathering on the different criteria, designing of a methodology for an objective and transparent assessment and establishing the list of countries.

The second part will consist of additional work on operating the system, including regular update of the key figures and modification of the classification list.

The first part of the work has been completed with the publication of the methodology and the first list of countries³. The work is continuing in view of the revision of the benchmarking in 2026, following the updated version of the Food and Agriculture Organisation's Forest Resource Assessment dataset expected to be released in October 2025.

The legislative financial statement supporting the Commission's legislative proposal⁴ of the EUDR revised upwards the estimated cost of the benchmarking system compared with the initial figures presented in the impact assessment to take account of subsequent changes in the assessment method. The financial statement estimated the cost at EUR 4.3 million for the period 2023–2027. To date, the actual expenditure on deploying the benchmarking system amounts to EUR 708,198, and the total required for 2023–2027 for this action is now projected to be lower than the legislative financial statement's estimate.

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 In April 2024.

³ May 2025: <https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/env/items/884631/>.

⁴ Page 71 of the Commission's legislative proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the making available on the Union market as well as export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation and repealing Regulation (EU) No 995/2010, COM/2021/706 final.