

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003746/25
to the Commission
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(26 September 2025)

Subject: Negative economic impact of the Deforestation Regulation and the cost of slogan-driven politics motivated by virtue signalling

The Commission's frequent reliance on slogans such as 'we just keep fighting deforestation' ⁽¹⁾ and 'every drop counts' ⁽²⁾ undermines European economies, especially the Nordic forestry industry.

While these statements may resonate on an emotional level, they fail to address the practical realities faced by sectors such as forestry, where sustainable practices are a core tenet of operations. In Sweden, forestry is governed by stringent regulations, with a focus on sustainable management and reforestation — principles that have long been in place — yet these practices are often incorrectly categorised as contributing to deforestation.

This virtue-signaling approach, based on oversimplified rhetoric, puts thousands of Swedish and other European jobs at risk in forestry and associated industries. The EU's Deforestation Regulation ⁽³⁾, which is repeatedly postponed due to its technical flaws, harms industries in Sweden and elsewhere in Europe without adequately addressing the complexities of the sector.

Considering these facts:

1. How will the Commission address the economic consequences of this policy driven by virtue signaling, which causes job losses in industries such as Nordic forestry?
2. Will it work to exempt Sweden and Finland, which already uphold the highest environmental standards, from the regulation?
3. What steps will the Commission take to ensure that slogan-driven politics is not prioritised over the preservation of European jobs and industry?

Submitted: 26.9.2025

Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(27 January 2026)

The proposal ⁽¹⁾ for the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) ⁽²⁾ was based on an Impact Assessment ⁽³⁾ which included a review of scientific literature and in particular of primary sources estimating the impact of EU consumption of specific commodities on global deforestation. The Impact Assessment estimated that the costs of compliance for companies were significantly lower than the expected benefits.

The proposal to amend the EUDR aims to reduce the load on the EUDR Information System and ease the administrative burden for economic operators, while maintaining the regulation's environmental integrity. On 4 December 2025, the co-legislators agreed on the revised EUDR ⁽⁴⁾.

The new date of entry into application will be 30 December 2026 for all companies except for most micro- or small operators, for which it will be 30 June 2027. For micro- or small operators already covered by the EU Timber Regulation ⁽⁵⁾, the entry into application will be 30 December 2026.

The amendments to the EUDR also limit the obligation to submit due diligence statements to the first operator placing the relevant products on the market.

¹ EU delays ban on imports linked to deforestation for second time <https://www.ft.com/content/ab4053ec-0a90-46da-a291-31f1c455663e>.

² 'Every drop counts, and every action matters. We call on all to strengthen water and climate policies.' Statement by Commissioner Roswall on World Water Day https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/bg/statement_25_850.

³ OJ L 150, 9.6.2023, p. 206, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/1115/oj> (<http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/1115/oj>).

⁽¹⁾ Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 as regards certain obligations of operators and traders, COM/2024/452 final.

⁽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⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021SC0326&qid=1727163336725>.

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) 2025/2650 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 2025 amending Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 as regards certain obligations of operators and traders, OJ L, 2025/2650, 23.12.2025.

⁽⁵⁾ 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, pp. 23-34.

Downstream operators, such as retreading industry or craft businesses, will no longer need to submit due diligence statements, nor to pass on the reference numbers further in the supply chain.

The proposal does not include country-based exemptions, but it streamlines the obligations for small and micro primary producers.
