

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001803/26
to the Commission
Thierry Mariani (P/E)
(4 May 2026)**

Subject: Coffee sector in Ethiopia

Ethiopia, the global birthplace of arabica, has over five million small-scale producers. These include family farms located in agroforestry areas which are unable to meet the geolocation and traceability requirements of Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 in a timely manner.

Coffee represents the country's primary source of foreign exchange and is a fundamental pillar of its rural economy. Efforts are underway to digitalise the industry, including by issuing producers with individual cards that come with a QR code. However, the institutional and financial capacities required for these to be deployed on a national scale are still insufficient in terms of meeting the deadlines set out in the regulation.

1. Does the Commission plan to grant Ethiopia an extended deadline for compliance?
2. How does it intend to mobilise development aid instruments, including as part of the Global Gateway strategy, to provide practical support to this industry, 30% of whose output is exported to the European Union?

Submitted: 4.5.2026

**Answer given by Mr Sikela on behalf of the European Commission
(10 July 2026)**

A new, extended deadline for Ethiopia would require to amend Regulation 2023/1115 ⁽¹⁾ (EUDR ⁽²⁾) before it starts applying, which would create further legal uncertainty, undermining the effectiveness of the regulation.

The Commission's focus is on effective implementation of the regulation. Partner countries and companies need legal clarity and predictability.

The Commission remains fully committed to finding pragmatic solutions to streamline and simplify the implementation of the EUDR in close dialogue with stakeholders and based on their on-the-ground experience.

The Commission has increasingly supported partner countries in making their coffee value chains EUDR-compliant. In the case of Ethiopia, consultations were held with the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA) and private operators to clarify requirements, raise awareness, and develop a national compliance strategy and action plan.

To support preparedness efforts, technical assistance was mobilised for an 'EUDR Preparedness Check' by the European Forest Institute (EFI) to assess the readiness of Ethiopia's coffee sector and identify gaps and opportunities related to EUDR requirements.

Furthermore, the 'EU-Coffee Action for Ethiopia ⁽³⁾' project was repurposed, in collaboration with ECTA, to support government-led compliance work.

Further efforts are planned, including to support the rollout of digital traceability systems as well as the expansion of the digital cadastre and second-level rural land certification in coffee-producing areas.

Lastly, the EFI has also started cooperation with the Ethiopian Space Science and Geospatial Institute for high-resolution mapping and land-use audits linked to the National Rural Land Administration Information System.

⁽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 (Text with EEA relevance) <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32023R1115>.

⁽²⁾ European Union Deforestation Regulation.

⁽³⁾ EU-Coffee Action for Ethiopia (EU-CAfE): Decision FED/2017/ 038-977: https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/action_document_for_cafe-ad_current_final_sent_01112017_adopted.pdf.