

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002542/26
to the Commission
Asger Christensen (Renew), Benoit Cassart (Renew), Katri Kulmuni (Renew)
(19 June 2026)**

Subject: Proportionality of the EU Deforestation Regulation in the light of the Commission's own cited scientific evidence

On 4 May 2026, the Commission published its simplification review of the EU Deforestation Regulation ⁽¹⁾ (EUDR). The report cites Singh and Persson ⁽²⁾ and states that seven EUDR commodities account for over 4 million hectares of deforestation annually, which amounts to approximately 70% of agriculture-driven deforestation.

The same study, however, gives a more differentiated commodity-level picture: deforestation footprints vary considerably among the EUDR commodities, while staple crops like maize, rice and cassava — currently out of the regulation's scope — collectively account for about 11% of global deforestation, exceeding cocoa (2%), coffee (1%) and rubber (1%). The study provides valuable new insights for EUDR risk benchmarking and regulatory scope, showing that both country and commodity dynamic shifts are critical for the regulation's success in achieving its ambition while preserving competitiveness and enhancing global supply chain resilience.

In the light of the above:

1. How does the Commission assess the apparent divergence between the study's commodity-level findings and the current EUDR commodity scope?
2. How will the Commission incorporate the study's full findings in future scoping, benchmarking or review exercises?
3. What safeguards will the Commission apply to ensure that the EUDR remains risk-based, proportionate and focused on the commodities and supply chains with the greatest deforestation risk?

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**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(25 August 2026)**

The EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) ⁽¹⁾ aims to address the EU's contribution to global deforestation.

In that context, it is important to distinguish between global deforestation attributable to a commodity and deforestation linked specifically to EU consumption of that commodity.

The relevance of a commodity under the EUDR depends not only on its overall deforestation footprint but also on the extent to which EU demand drives that footprint.

This explains why commodities such as cocoa, of which a substantial proportion of global production is exported to the EU market, are included within the EUDR despite their relatively modest contribution to global deforestation, and cassava is not.

At the same time, agricultural production systems, international trade patterns, and consumer preferences evolve over time. Recognising this dynamic, the EUDR includes a review clause which requires the Commission to present a review of the regulation and its scope no later than 30 June 2030.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 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 (ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/1115/oj>).

² Singh, C. & Persson, U. M., 2026, Global patterns of commodity-driven deforestation and associated carbon emissions. *Nature Food*, 7(2), 138-151.

⁽¹⁾ 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.