

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001827/24
to the Commission
Beatrice Timgren (ECR)
(26 September 2024)**

Subject: Regarding the digital platform for due diligence statements on deforestation

Czechia has recently joined Austria, Finland, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Sweden in urging the Commission to delay the implementation of new legislation on deforestation ⁽¹⁾ because of concerns that the new deforestation rules may be difficult to implement and could have unintended negative consequences for both EU and international stakeholders ⁽²⁾.

In light of this, the following questions arise:

1. Given the reported doubts about whether the Commission's digital platform for uploading due diligence statements will be ready and have sufficient capacity by the deadline set in the regulation, will the Commission reconsider delaying implementation? If not, what specific reasons justify moving forward despite the concerns?
2. What concrete measures is the Commission implementing to reduce the administrative burden and minimise the bureaucracy associated with the new deforestation regulation, particularly given the anticipated increase in inspections and reporting requirements for both EU farmers and international producers?
3. What specific steps will the Commission take to prevent the use of fake certificates and ensure that the benchmarking system for classifying countries by deforestation risk will be fully operational and effective by the date of the regulation's implementation, and what are the estimated costs of these steps?

Submitted: 26.9.2024

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(5 November 2024)**

The Commission has proposed ⁽¹⁾ a 12-month phasing-in period for the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) ⁽²⁾ to allow companies more time to prepare.

If this extension is approved by the European Parliament and the Council, the obligations laid down therein will apply from 30 December 2025 for medium and large companies, and from 30 June 2026 for micro and small enterprises.

The extra time aims to ensure that industry sectors and global partners are fully prepared for the regulation's entry into application. The third edition of the Frequently Asked Questions ⁽³⁾ and the Guidance document ⁽⁴⁾ provide pragmatic solutions, developed in close cooperation with the Member States to raise the capacity of the private stakeholders.

A call ⁽⁵⁾ under the EU programme for the Environment and Climate Action is under evaluation that will award EUR 1 million for capacity building of private stakeholders.

The development of the Information System is well on track and will be ready in December 2024. The Commission developed several solutions to reduce the need for manual data entry and facilitate the work of stakeholders.

Several demonstrations took place in 2024 in the Multi-Stakeholder Platform ⁽⁶⁾ to facilitate familiarisation with the system. User instructions have been published and virtual trainings have started.

The process to develop the benchmarking methodology to classify countries or parts thereof is well advanced. The Commission has published a Strategic Framework for International Cooperation Engagement in the context of the EUDR ⁽⁷⁾ to promote deforestation-free supply chains globally.

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, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/1115/oj>).

² Jochecová, K., 'The EU's anti-deforestation law just won't work, says Czech farm chief', 4 September 2024, *Politico*, <https://pro.politico.eu/news/185351>.

⁽¹⁾ https://green-business.ec.europa.eu/publications/proposal-regulation-amending-deforestation-regulation-regards-date-application_en

⁽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://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/34861680-e799-4d7c-bbad-da83c45da458/library/e126f816-844b-41a9-89ef-cb2a33b6aa56/details?download=true>

⁽⁴⁾ https://green-business.ec.europa.eu/publications/guidance-eu-deforestation-regulation_en

⁽⁵⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/life/wp-call/2021-2024/call-fiche_life-2024-plp_en.pdf

⁽⁶⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/expert-groups-register/screen/expert-groups/consult?lang=en&do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupID=3282>

⁽⁷⁾ https://green-business.ec.europa.eu/publications/communication-commission-strategic-framework-international-cooperation-engagement-deforestation_en

The annex of this framework outlines the principles of the methodology for the classification system, which are firmly grounded in fairness, objectivity and transparency.
