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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
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Cooperation with third countries is a key priority for the EU and a legal obligation under the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)¹. This serves a double purpose: explain the EUDR, its rationale and its requirements; and discuss concrete needs and concerns and explore cooperation possibilities to support the transition towards Deforestation-free supply chains.

The Commission has scaled up its engagement with partner countries, Member States and global stakeholders since 2024 to support preparations and provide an update on EUDR latest developments. On 2 October 2024, the Commission published a Strategic Framework for International Cooperation to promote Deforestation-free supply chains globally². The Commission, together with Member States has increased dedicated funding, in particular with the launch of a EUR 86 million Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on Deforestation-free Value Chains³ and created targeted value-chain initiatives such as the Sustainable Cocoa Initiative, forming part of the broader ecosystem of deforestation-related programmes under the TEI framework⁴.

The EU Multi-Stakeholder Platform on Protecting and Restoring the World's Forests⁵ continues to dedicate specific sessions to support Member States. In addition, the Commission holds a high number of informal meetings with Member States to ensure a well-coordinated approach on EUDR implementation among competent authorities.

Generally speaking, the Commission has held a very high number of meetings with partner countries, Member States and stakeholders, and continues to engage with all parties to ensure a smooth implementation of the EUDR.

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 https://green-forum.ec.europa.eu/document/download/98053bb7-bb73-4157-bf35-a9ffa35e2ee2_en?filename=Annex%20to%20Communication%20Strategic%20Framework%20for%20International%20Cooperation%20EUDR.pdf.

³ <https://zerodeforestationhub.eu/>.

⁴ which currently provides support in more than 20 partner countries: Argentina, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria, Laos, Liberia, Paraguay, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia. Other countries might still be added in the future, depending on the funding situation of the TEI.

⁵ <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/expert-groups-register/screen/expert-groups/consult?lang=en&groupId=3282&fromMeetings=true&meetingId=23741>.