



Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission  
Jessika Roswall, Commissioner - Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy

Brussels, June 24th, 2025

**EUDR: Urgent need for implementation and call for swift update of the country classification and benchmarking methodology once 2025 FAO dataset available**

Dear President von der Leyen, Dear Commissioner Roswall,

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, wish to express our commitment to the swift and effective implementation of the EU Regulation on deforestation-free products (EUDR), aimed at ensuring an EU market that is free of deforestation products, tackling as a result both climate change and biodiversity loss globally.

We welcome the long-awaited adoption by the Commission of the risk country classification, which has also been agreed to by Member State representatives. It represents an essential element of the functioning of the EUDR and another step forward its full implementation, by facilitating implementation in areas where the risk of deforestation is low, such as in the EU Member States, all the while ensuring more stringent compliance requirements for countries which are standard or high risk.

However, we believe that this first classification of ‘low’, ‘standard’ or ‘high risk’ countries, as presented in the Implementing Act (IA), and based on the benchmarking methodology, should be evolved with urgency to accurately capture in a precise and efficient manner deforestation and forest degradation hot spots across the globe, in the ‘high risk’ category. **We strongly believe that it can, and we urge for it, to be swiftly addressed.**

**In that regard, we support the Commission’s commitment to review and update its benchmarking methodology and the ensuing risk classification on the basis of new FAO datasets, as soon as they become available at the end of 2025. We call on the Commission to uphold this commitment and to ensure that this review and update are achieved as soon as possible and, as announced, take place in the beginning of 2026.**

The attempt to further delay the implementation of the EUDR by some members of this house leads to unpredictability and undermines trust in the EU for its businesses, but also for its partner countries. To the contrary, we believe that the Commission’s review and update will be a more effective method to address their concerns than further delaying the implementation of the EUDR.

The two objections on the country risk classification, tabled in the European Parliament’s Committee on Environment, Climate and Food Safety (ENVI), stand in the way of achieving the objectives set out in the EUDR. **We therefore reject these objections and do not support a further delay.**

It is not the time to create legal uncertainty while companies based in the EU have already committed substantial resources and have invested in achieving compliance with the EUDR. Furthermore, the EU’s international partners are preparing to abide by the EUDR. Fighting for an EU market that has deforestation free products remains a key priority for us and we believe that this house’s commitment to that should be unwavering.

We remain available to work constructively with the Commission to ensure this regulation lives up to its historic promise.

Yours sincerely,

Tiemo Wölken, S&D ENVI Coordinator  
Delara Burkhardt, S&D EUDR shadow  
Pascal Canfin, Renew ENVI Coordinator and EUDR shadow  
Sara Matthieu, Greens/EFA Group ENVI Coordinator  
Marie Toussaint, Greens/EFA Group EUDR shadow  
Jonas Sjöstedt, The Left ENVI Coordinator and EUDR shadow  
Anna Cavazzini, Rapporteur for the EUDR IMCO opinion  
Lynn Boylan, Standing Rapporteur of the INTA monitoring group on the EUDR and CBAM