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Commission proposal for a regulation on deforestation-free products

State of play – Belgium

CCIM Stakeholders dialogue XXXVII (28/01/2022)



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2 BE relevance / interest

Environment

BE contribution to:

- minimise consumption of products coming from supply chains associated with deforestation or forest degradation;
- minimise the EU's contribution to deforestation and forest degradation worldwide;
- increase EU demand for and trade in legal and 'deforestation free' commodities and products;
- thereby reducing the EU contribution to GHG emissions and global biodiversity loss.



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BE relevance / interest

Environment

in line with several recent Belgian international commitments:

- **Amsterdam Declarations Partnersip (BE member since 2021)**
voluntary partnership of several European countries to take action against imported deforestation (focus primarily on soy, palm oil and cocoa);
- **Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use (COP26)**
aimed to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 at the latest, while promoting sustainable development and inclusive rural transformation;
(145 countries signatories)



4 BE relevance / interest

Environment

in line with several recent Belgian international commitments:

- **Global Forest Finance Pledge (COP26)**
addressing the systemic causes of forest loss by, inter alia, supporting and strengthening deforestation-free and sustainable agricultural supply chains, including systems of transparency, traceability and integrity;
- **Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement (COP26)**
supporting ambitious efforts in the region to protect and conserve the forests, peatlands and other critical global carbon stocks in the Congo Basin.



5 BE relevance / interest

Agriculture & forestry

Domestic production: wood, cattle (and animal feed through soya, palm oil)

Supply chains (import, export):

- commodities: cattle, cocoa, coffee, oil palm, soya and wood
 - list of derived products: annex I
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- more sustainable and level playing field
 - In line with / strengthening several voluntary sustainable supply chain initiatives by private sector
 - administrative burden, cost
 - possible shifts in supply chains (sourcing)



6 BE relevance / interest

Economy

Supply chains in proposal scope related to different economic sectors:

- agriculture (see prev. slide);
- food (palm oil, soya, beef, chocolate and coffee);
- animal feed (soy and palm oil);
- forestry, wood & wood products (e.g. furniture, paper);
- clothing (leather);
- pharmaceuticals & cosmetics (mainly palm oil);
- energy-biofuels (palm oil and soybean oil); ...



7 CCIM-CCPIE working group

transversal, cross-sectoral proposal



CCIM-CCPIE working group *deforestation-free value chains*

over 40 experts, representing government services and agencies from:

- BE regions (RBC-BHG, RW, VG) and federal government
- multi-sectoral composition: environment, customs, agriculture and forestry, economy, trade, development, foreign affairs

collaboration toward:

- coordinated BE interventions (*Council Ad Hoc Working Party on Deforestation*)
- elements for BE position at DGE, in preparation of Council meetings



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Proposal timeline

Proposal adopted by European Commission on 17/11/2022

Presented by EC at:

- Working Party Forestry (19/11/2021)
- Working Party Environment (22/11/2021)
- Council meeting Agriculture and Fisheries (13/12)
- Council meeting Environment (20/12)

Discussion at Informal Meetings of Environment and Energy Ministers
(Amiens, 20-22/01/2022)

Ad Hoc Working Party on Deforestation

- established beginning of Jan. 2022
- dedicated to treatment of proposal within Council
- reports to Environment Council, and regularly to Agriculture and fisheries Council



9 Proposal timeline

Ad Hoc Working Party on Deforestation

First meeting: 24/01/2022

- presentation of proposal, FLEGT & EUTR fitness check & Impact Assessment by EC
- general round of comments and questions by MS:
 - broad support from EU MS for policy goals and general approach of proposal;
 - emphasis on need for clear implementability and enforcement, cost-efficiency.
 - EU MS currently still coordinating more detailed analysis and position;
 - general scrutiny reserve on entire proposal;
- first round of questions on chapter 1 and annex 1 (subject matter, scope, definitions)

Further meetings to complete a first study of the entire proposal by beginning of March 2022

Policy debate on proposal at

- Council meeting AGRIFISH 21/02/2022 or 21/03/2022
- Council meeting ENVIRONMENT 17/03/2022



Thank you

