



# **DEVCO** **Environment and Climate Week 2020**

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## **Session: Sustainable Forest Management**

# **Communication on 'Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests'**

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# Communication on ‘The European Green Deal’

(December 2019)

The European Green Deal emphasizes the importance of taking action to protect and restore the world’s forest and sets out the way forward in terms of the promotion of products and value chains that do not involve deforestation and forest degradation through additional measures.

## **FLEGT Action Plan (2003)**

- Boosting legal and sustainable forest management capacity in 25 timber producing countries
- Engaging in Voluntary Partnership Agreement negotiations and implementation with 15 countries
- EU Timber Regulation (2010) establishing a 'due diligence' regulation to fight illegal timber harvesting and trade

## Current situation: deforestation and forest degradation

- Agricultural expansion is responsible for 80% of deforestation worldwide
- Global ecosystems are suffering alarming rates of deforestation and forest degradation — an area double the size of France was lost between 1990 and 2006
- 12% of all greenhouse gas emissions comes from land-use and land-use change mostly due to deforestation





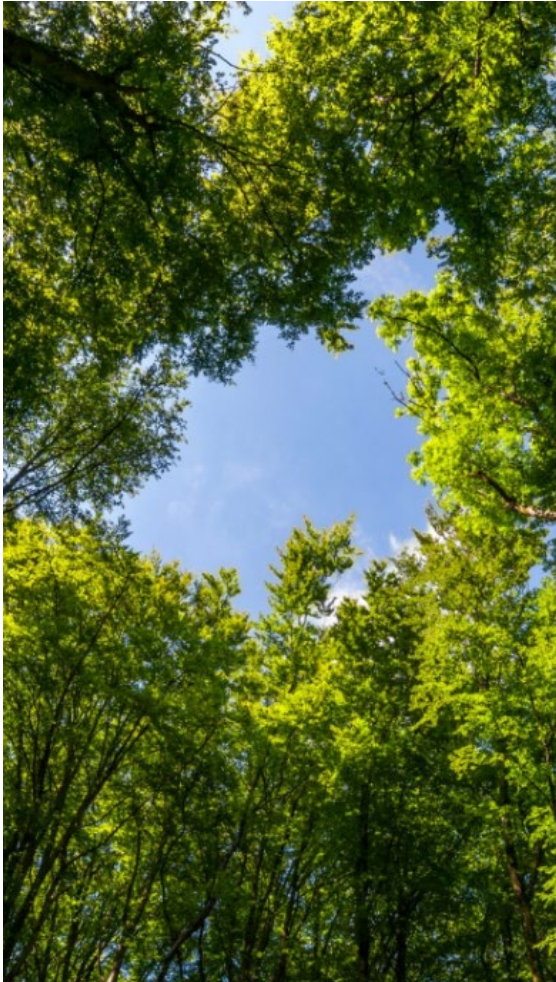
# Does the EU bear a responsibility?

The EU is partly responsible as it buys a third of internationally-traded commodities linked to deforestation such as palm oil, soya or meat



## ‘Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World’s Forests’ (July 2019)

- Reduce the EU consumption footprint on land and encourage the consumption of products from deforestation-free supply chains in the EU
- Work in partnership with producing countries to reduce pressures on forests and to “deforest-proof” EU development cooperation
- Strengthen international cooperation to halt deforestation and forest degradation, and encourage forest restoration
- Redirect finance to support more sustainable land-use practices
- Support the availability of, quality of, and access to information on forests and commodity supply chains, and support research and innovation



# Implementing the Communication

- ❖ Inception Impact Assessment for demand-side measures published
- ❖ Call for applications for the multi-stakeholder platform launched
- ❖ Roadmap for fitness check of FLEGT and EUTR regulations adopted
- ❖ Tender for a study on certification schemes launched
- ❖ EU Observatory to provide better information under development



# Measures to be studied in the impact assessment

- ❖ Voluntary and mandatory labelling
- ❖ Voluntary commitments from the industry
- ❖ Certification and verification systems
- ❖ Due diligence systems
- ❖ Agreements with third countries
- ❖ Tools based on the Product Environmental Footprint and the Organisational Environmental Footprint
- ❖ Approaches inspired by the EU rules against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU)
- ❖ Sustainable financing tools
- ❖ Possibility of introducing thresholds, for instance based on operators' size



Thank you!