



Associação Portuguesa para
a Defesa do Consumidor



8th November, 2022

To the kind attention of:

Minister Mr Gilberto Pichetto Fratin
Vice President Ms Teresa Ribera
Minister Ms Christianne Van der Wal
Minister Mr Duarte Cordeiro

Subject: Vote in the EU Council on the EU Regulation proposal for Deforestation Free products

Dear Vice-Presidents and Ministers,

The undersigned organisations are consumer protection associations working at national and EU level, respectively in Spain, Italy, Portugal and The Netherlands. We are committed to sustainable consumption and support responsible choices by citizens and by companies.

We are contacting you with regard to the [new EU Regulation proposal on "Deforestation free" products](#).

Earlier this year, EU Parliament issued an historic vote to protect the world's forest, the Indigenous Peoples living there and protecting those, and make financial institutions accountable for ensuring that their money is not connected to deforestation. The law passed the EU parliament in a landslide 453 to 57!

MEPs listened to the citizens: [consumer polls show 8 in 10 consumers in Europe overwhelmingly support a strong and ambitious EU anti-deforestation law](#). This law is good for consumers because:

- It will keep forest destruction off of supermarket shelves and out of our shopping carts;
- It will mandate transparency and traceability, so companies provide exact data on the origin of key products like meat, soy animal feed, wood, chocolate, coffee and rubber, and;
- It will keep forest destruction out of the finance products, such as the bank accounts, savings, pension funds, investments and mortgages. It will help to give clarity on what financial institutions do with consumers' money.

The law is also good for the planet:

- It will protect the Amazon and other critical rainforests including the Congo Basin, Indonesia, Malaysia from Big Business bulldozers;
- It will protect other wooded land such as the world's largest tropical savannah, Brazil's Cerrado;
- It will protect the land rights of Indigenous Peoples, and;
- It will help prevent the financial sector to stop bankrolling forest destruction.

But the job is not yet done

It now needs to be confirmed by Environment Ministers. This is why we're writing to you, Mr Gilberto Pichetto Fratin, and to Ms Teresa Ribera, Mr Duarte Cordeiro, and Ms Christianne van der Wal.



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This is a unique opportunity to show leadership and support a strong EU law in Brussels, in the next meeting of EU Environment Ministers on 9 November. It will help Spain, Portugal, Italy and The Netherlands live up to the commitments made in Glasgow last year with the Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use.

We really hope you'll bring in Europe the voice of the Dutch people, Italians, Portuguese people and Spaniards, a voice calling for responsibility and a sustainable future for all.

Sincerely,

Ana Cristina Tapadinhas
DECO

David Sánchez Carpio
CECU

Olof King
Consumentenbond

Carlo De Masi
ADICONSUM