

**Question for written answer E-004502/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Deforestation

In 2008, the EU pledged to reduce gross tropical deforestation by at least 50 % by 2020, and to halt global forest cover loss by 2030 (COM(2008)0645). Seven years have now passed since that commitment was made and deforestation continues at an alarming rate, with serious consequences for indigenous populations, local communities, biodiversity and climate change.

Calculations show that 70 % of deforestation is linked to commercial agricultural production, while a study carried out by the European Commission itself revealed that an area of rainforest the size of Portugal was cleared between 1990 and 2008 in order to produce commodities intended for the EU. Approximately 36 % of the global volume of agricultural products and products produced by farming on deforested land is consumed in the EU - that equates to double the amount consumed by China and Japan combined. This figure corresponds to approximately 300 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year, which is considerably more than Europe is able to mitigate in its territory. The most effective way of protecting rainforests, therefore, is to tackle the consumption of products linked to tropical deforestation.

What is the Commission doing to follow up on its commitments concerning deforestation?

What commitments does the Commission plan to make at the next United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) with regards to the international causes of deforestation?