



2020/2006(INL)

28.4.2020

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

with recommendations to the Commission on an EU legal framework to halt and reverse EU-driven global deforestation
(2020/2006(INL))

Rapporteur for opinion: Martin Häusling

(Initiative – Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure)

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development calls on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Calls for binding Union law to be adopted that ensures that all supply chains of products imported into the Union and also of those products and services supplied within the Union do not involve deforestation and ecosystem degradation or conversion, or human rights violations, and that protects indigenous peoples and local communities; 2. Notes that voluntary measures alone will not stop deforestation;
3. Calls therefore for a due diligence obligation to be placed on operators, including financiers, that place forest and ecosystem-risk commodities or derivatives on the Union market;
4. Considers that improving traceability and transparency can help to ensure that only sustainably sourced goods are consumed; calls for due diligence obligations to be part of public procurement rules;
5. Calls for binding and enforceable environmental and social provisions to be included in free trade agreements (FTAs) so as to protect forests, natural ecosystems and human rights, particularly community tenure rights; calls for the reopening of FTAs which do not contain such provisions, for example EU-Mercosur FTA;
6. Calls for the Union to cut dependency on imports of forest and ecosystem-risk commodities by implementing the Union protein plan, and for Union livestock production to match available Union land resources;
7. Calls for a coherent legislative framework that brings together and develops existing systems, such as the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan and the Union timber regulation, guaranteeing participation of affected rights holders;
8. Notes the unsustainable level of consumption in the EU, and that, for example, the Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) contains insufficient sustainability criteria, which both causes and intensifies land-use change;
9. Asks the Commission to monitor and take action on the causes of wildfires, forest damage and ecosystem conversion and related human rights and tenure violations, by creating early alert mechanisms.