Question for written answer E-000798/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE)

Subject: Commission proposal on commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation (COM(2021)0366)

The proposal for a regulation 2021/0366 on deforestation is inspired by Regulation 995/2010 laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market. However, its implementation has revealed certain shortcomings, such as inconsistencies in the approach of Member States (different legal environments, documents that have not been formalised) or a lack of mutual communication. How does the Commission intend to ensure that Regulation 2021/0366 does not encounter the same problems?

The new proposal for a regulation does not include certain wood and paper products in its scope. Thus, the proposal could be considered inconsistent if it only covers wood and paper products at a certain stage of the supply chain – see Combined Nomenclature Chapters 47 and 48 on pulp and paper and Chapter 49 on printed products. Why has the Commission proceeded in this way, and is it considering including printed products in the regulation?

According to recent estimates, around 90 % of global deforestation is caused by conversion to agricultural land, urban expansion or mining. Will the Commission not consider removing wood from the 2021/0366 regulation, since this area is already covered by legislation?