Question for written answer E-000799/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE)

Subject: Definition of forest degradation in proposal 2021/0366 on commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation

The definition of forest degradation in proposal 2021/0366 reduces a complex phenomenon to a single management practice defined as ‘unsustainable logging activities’. Ultimately, the assessment of forest degradation as a reduction in the ability of forests to provide goods and services depends on the weight given to different criteria (e.g. species diversity, production capacity, conservation capacity), which is context- and country-specific. Moreover, many indicators of the ability of a forest to provide goods and services change over time (within a stand) without degrading the forest. In addition, temporary reductions in forest functions can be caused by natural causes, such as biotic (pest occurrence) and abiotic disturbances (fires, windstorms, hurricanes).

1. Does the Commission consider the above definition problematic because it ignores the concept of sustainable forest management as a dynamic balance of social, environmental and economic functions?

2. Does the Commission consider it problematic that the definition is unable to describe the different management systems within the EU and ignores the need for forestry practices adapted to local conditions?