Question for written answer E-000800/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE)

Subject: Forest certification schemes in proposal 2021/0366 on commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation

Existing global forest certification schemes, such as FSC and PEFC, are key tools in the sector’s risk management and mitigation practices in line with EU law on forest certification. Third-party verified forest management certification ensures that forests are managed in accordance with environmental and economic requirements, and is complemented by a chain of custody and certification that allows timber raw materials to be traced back to their origin. A recent study¹ has confirmed that certification remains a key tool, as it provides protection and a higher level of certainty for operators compared to non-certified material or supply chains. Its scope is therefore broader than ‘legality’ and ‘deforestation’, which are set out as the main conditions of proposal 2021/0366.

1. When drafting the legislative proposal, did the Commission consider the supporting role of certification schemes in assessing deforestation risks?

2. Does the Commission agree that the new framework should build as much as possible on the existing schemes as set out in the EU Timber Regulation (EU 995/2010) in order to prevent unnecessary increases in timber costs and administrative and financial burdens on operators?