The Commission is aware of the financial and ecological costs resulting from illegal logging. The EU Timber Regulation\(^1\) sets the framework for cooperation of the Member States’ competent authorities to prevent illegally harvested timber from entering the EU market, promotes exchange of information and cross-border cooperation to tackle illegal logging. The more ambitious and broader proposal for a regulation\(^2\) on deforestation-free products and commodities foresees a shared information system accessible to the authorities and the industry as a central element for implementation. The Commission will also establish an EU Observatory\(^3\) to facilitate access to information linking deforestation, forest degradation, and changes in forest cover to EU trade for commodities and products. This follows up also on final proposal 2 of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

An information campaign with a dedicated website\(^4\) about the health risks of wood heating and to promote heating alternatives with lower emissions was started in 2015 under the EU programme for environment and climate action (LIFE) of the European Climate Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency\(^5\).

The Commission is aware of the negative effects the energy crisis has had on the energy prices. To address the market disruption and price shocks caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Commission has proposed, in the REPower EU Plan\(^6\), the acceleration of renewables’ roll-out. The use of solar, wind, renewable hydrogen and sustainably produced bio-methane (from organic waste, forest and agricultural residues) should be prioritised. Accelerating their roll-out can alleviate any additional pressure on forests.

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3 The EU Observatory on deforestation, forest degradation, changes in the world’s forest cover and associated drivers announced in the Communication to Stepping up Action to Protect and Restore the World’s Forests COM(2019) 352 final.