

**Question for written answer E-001381/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Ulrike Müller (Renew)

Subject: Planning certainty for businesses in the implementation of the digital information system under the Regulation on deforestation-free supply chains

In line with the European Commission's plans, in the digital information system announced under Article 33 of the EU Regulation on deforestation-free supply chains, each import into the EU will receive a reference number. This number can be passed on within the system with the goods, right through to their export. Further details are to be finalised in the coming months. A pilot is due to start at the end of the year. The Commission expects the information system to be broadly implemented by spring 2024. In accordance with Articles 33 and 38(2), the information system must be in place no later than the date of entry into force of the Regulation. However, the later businesses have access to clear information on how the information system will work, the later they will be able to make specific preparations for its implementation. It is therefore estimated that this will cost businesses 9 to 12 months of the 18-month transition period.

1. How is the Commission ensuring that businesses can prepare themselves for the specific requirements of the system and, in particular, passing on certificates/reference numbers within the system, from the start of the 18-month transition period?
2. Will the transition period be extended if the Commission's preparations are delayed?

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