

**Priority question for written answer P-004369/2019/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Tudor Ciuhodaru (S&D)

Subject: Romania's forests should not be up for export

I would ask the Commission to include my bill on the protection of forest areas in the new Green Deal. We are in the midst of an ecological crisis and this initiative could save our forests!

The Ciuhodaru Bill (tabled in the Romanian Parliament) seeks to prohibit the export of timber products from Romania for a period of at least five years (the same length as the EP's ninth parliamentary term). Any breach of that act would be punishable by between five and ten years in prison.

This ban on the export of timber products, which seeks to conserve finite natural resources and ensure reforestation, has already proved to be effective in other countries. Some EU Member States, such as Austria, have enacted very stringent legislation aimed at preventing the exploitation of forests and timber exports.

It must be remembered that:

every hour Romania loses six hectares of forest;

62 cases of illegal logging per hour are being recorded on a daily basis;

Romania has lost over half of its forested areas;

not only are we already the worst performing country in Europe in this area, but wholesale deforestation for the export of timber is still on the increase.

1. Current rules, which only seek to combat illegal logging and the effects thereof, are weak, inadequate and, to date, ineffective.
2. My own bill goes to the root of the problem of wholesale deforestation.
3. Can the Commission accordingly indicate how soon the provisions thereof may be put into effect?