

**Priority question for written answer P-000494/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Risks to the coffee supply chain posed by the Regulation on deforestation-free products

The Regulation on deforestation-free products will apply from December 2024. Some of the risks inherent to the regulation are already materialising and are having repercussions on numerous stakeholders along the supply chain, from smallholders to final consumers.

For example, the new rules, which require forest tracing to prove that commodities do not derive from deforestation practices, are particularly difficult to implement in low-income and smaller producing countries that do not have traceability systems in place. This is particularly the case in Africa. Consequently, European coffee importers may be forced to reduce their purchases from these countries and may therefore struggle to procure requisite volumes of coffee. This in turn could deprive local smallholders of business opportunities, adversely impacting their living conditions. Moreover, at the end of the supply chain, the new compliance burden may result in increased prices for EU consumers. These risks are even more problematic in the current context of inflation and weakening purchasing power.

1. Is the Commission aware of these risks and what is it doing to mitigate them?
2. How will it ensure that the new traceability requirements and risk-benchmarking system address these concerns?

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