

**Priority question for written answer P-000819/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Deforestation Regulation

1. The Commission president publicly announced the aim to reduce administrative burdens for farmers where possible. When and in which way will the planned massive additional administrative burdens, costs and restrictions for farmers and forest owners arising from Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 be reduced?
2. In Austria, more than 50 % of the land is covered with forests. The forest area has expanded by 330 000 hectares in recent decades, largely on land that was previously used for agricultural purposes. In the meantime, land used for agriculture in Austria has been reduced by more than 1 000 000 hectares – mainly due to infrastructure construction. Recital 16 of Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 states that 90 % of worldwide deforestation is caused by the expansion of agriculture. Why is there no exception provided for a country such as Austria, where the situation is exactly the other way around?
3. Wood from EU forests that have been converted to agricultural use after 31 December 2020 cannot be placed on the market or exported even if there the conversion has a legal authorisation from a national authority. Why can wood from forests that have been converted to a carpark or golf course still be placed on the market or be exported?

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