

## Press release

# EUDR delay is an occasion to implement a solid framework against deforestation

Brussels, 2 October 2024

*The EU Commission today proposed a postponement of the implementation of the Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). The pulp and paper sector welcomes the announcement which offers an occasion to develop a stronger framework to fight deforestation. The European Parliament and EU Council will still need to confirm the delayed phase-in.*

The EU Commission has proposed today a draft amendment to **postpone by a year the implementation** of a regulation aiming to limit deforestation linked to commodities, not only imported but also produced and exported from the European Union.

Long-expected guidelines to the implementation of the EUDR have now been published in conjunction with the announcement, but the information system build by the EU to enforce the tracking of materials and commodities remains to be completed. A benchmarking system assessing the risk level by country is also still pending. Based on these delays, the EU pulp and paper sector represented by Cepi has been [vocal about the need for an adequate transition period for the EUDR](#).

It is not unusual to see transitional implementation periods applied for EU legislation. **The predecessor to the EUDR, the EU timber regulation (EUTR) had a 3-year transition period**, for a much simpler system. The EUTR remains in place and ensures no wood from illegal sources is placed on the EU market.

EUDR rules state that companies must ensure that their products were not made on areas deforested after 2020. They require passing tracking information along complex value chains, which is particularly challenging when materials are mixed from different sources as is the case for paper. **The delay will now allow for a better implementation of the regulation, and stronger impact on deforestation.**

### Quote by Jori Ringman, Cepi Director General

*“The EUDR is too important not to get it right. We certainly do not ignore the environmental crisis and the climate emergency, which the EUDR is designed to help solve. Nor is our industry a source of deforestation. From a business angle, deforestation is major reputational risk which for any industry; our industry also depends on healthy forests for our own future.*

*“We fully support the objectives of the EUDR, and with this new timeline, we believe that the EU and its trade partners now have a much better chance at finally eradicating deforestation.”*

### Notes to editor:

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For more information on Industry commitments,  
please consult

[Cepi's Sustainable Product Pledge](#)

[Cepi's Pledge to support the 3 billion trees initiative](#)

[The 4evergreen cross-industry alliance](#)

### About Cepi:

Cepi is the European association representing the paper industry. We offer a wide range of renewable and recyclable wood-based fibre solutions to EU citizens: from packaging to textile, hygiene and tissue products, printing and graphic papers as well as speciality papers, but also bio-chemicals for food and pharmaceuticals, bio-composites and bioenergy.

We are a responsible industry: 91% of our raw materials are sourced in Europe and certified as sustainable, 92% of the water we use is returned in good condition to the environment. . We are the world champion in recycling at the rate of 79.3%. At the forefront of the decarbonisation and industrial transformation of our economy, we embrace digitalisation and bring 20 billion value addition to the European economy and €5.5 billion investments annually. Through its 19 national associations, Cepi gathers 480 companies operating 856 mills across Europe and directly employing more than 175,000 people.

More information about our sustainability performance [here](#).