



VIRGINIJUS SINKEVIČIUS
Commissioner for Environment
Oceans and Fisheries

Brussels, 10 January 2022
Ref. Ares (2021)6767295

Mr Justin Adams
Executive Director
The Tropical Forest Alliance

Email: Justin.Adams@weforum.org

Dear Mr. Adams,

Thank you for your letter of 29 October 2021 addressed to Executive Vice President Timmermans and me on behalf of several companies, sharing a number of questions with regard to the European Commission's legislative proposal on deforestation.

The Commission adopted the proposal¹ 'on the making available on the Union market as well as export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation and repealing Regulation (EU) No 995/2010' on 17 November 2021.

The proposal addresses your questions regarding the need to further engage with producer countries and outlines a broad range of partnership and cooperation mechanisms through which work on the transition to sustainable commodity production, consumption, processing and trade methods will be pursued. This will facilitate compliance of relevant commodities and products with the requirements of the Regulation.

The proposed Regulation also acknowledges the importance of these partnerships and cooperation mechanisms ensuring the full participation of all stakeholders, including civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities and the private sector, including SMEs and smallholders. The benchmarking system foreseen builds on an assessment of "countries or parts thereof", hence recognizing that the situation can vary significantly within a country.

Furthermore, it is important to underline that this proposed Regulation is meant to be implemented hand in hand with other measures identified in the 2019 Communication on "Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests"², including cooperation with producing countries to step up protection of their forests. The Commission stands ready

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/environment/publications/proposal-regulation-deforestation-free-products_en

² [EU Communication 2019 - Forests - Environment - European Commission. \(europa.eu\)](#)

to strengthen its support to producing countries - including through Forest Partnerships - to facilitate their transition towards sustainability.

I believe this initiative will mark a decisive turning point in the global fight against deforestation and forest degradation.

I am looking forward to further cooperation on the subject.

Yours sincerely,



Virginijus Sinkevičius