

TFA EU DEEP DIVES

GELOCATION & TRACEABILITY SESSION

TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR OPERATORS:

The proposed **European Commission** deforestation regulation requires operators to provide:

- » Adequate and verifiable information that the relevant commodities and products are deforestation-free.
- » Adequate and verifiable information that the production has been conducted in accordance with relevant legislation of the country of production, including any arrangement conferring the right to use the respective area for the purposes of the production of the relevant commodity.
- » **Geo-localisation coordinates, latitude and longitude of all plots of land where the relevant commodities and products were produced, as well as date or time.**

The Council has also put forward the following amendment with regards to geolocation:

- » The geographical location of a plot of land described by means of latitude and longitude coordinates corresponding to at least one latitude and longitude point and using at least six decimal digits. For relevant commodities other than cattle, for plots of land of more than 10 hectares, the geographical location shall be provided using sufficient latitude and longitude points to describe the perimeter of the plot of land.

The European Parliament's **Environment Committee** has since put forward an alternative amendment:

- » Geolocation coordinates, latitude and longitude for all plots of land where the relevant commodities and products were produced, or the geolocation coordinates, latitude and longitude of all points of a polygon for the plots of land where the relevant commodities and products were produced; any deforestation or degradation in the given plots of land, either identified by a single point of latitude and longitude or by polygon, shall automatically disqualify all products and commodities from those plots of land from being placed and made available on the market or exported therefrom;’ – delegated acts may be adopted with regard to the size of the plots of land above which companies are required to provide polygons.

As of July 2022, it is not yet clear what the final wording of the geolocation and therefore the traceability requirements will exactly entail. However, all above amendments retain the geolocation requirements back to the area of production but proposing a different level of granularity and/or include some exceptions for certain commodities or sizes of operation.

Please refer to the separate commodity briefings for an overview of existing traceability approaches and solutions.

i (European Commission, Proposal for a regulation on deforestation-free products, 2021, p. 39)