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ACTION PLAN



2014



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Like WWF, I believe that living within the boundaries of our planet is possible but that we need to consume better and more wisely. Especially forests, which are important for climate stabilisation worldwide and provide livelihoods for millions of people, are threatened. The proposals made in the 7th Environmental Action Programme to assess the impacts of the EU's consumption on the global environment, including deforestation and forest degradation and especially the development of an EU Action Plan on deforestation and forest degradation are therefore actions that need to be taken urgently.

Gaston Franco –
Former EPP MEP
and rapporteur on the 7th European
Environmental Action Plan

REDUCE EUROPE'S IMPACT ON DEFORESTATION

Forests cover 31% of the land area on our planet, produce vital oxygen and provide homes for people and wildlife. But increasing pressures from fires, clear-cutting, agriculture and unsustainable logging are putting this vital resource at risk. Between 1990 and 2008 the EU was the largest net importer of products causing deforestation and significantly ahead of other trading powers like China or North America¹. This does not only threaten forests but other ecosystems as well.

In 2008, EU environment ministers committed to halt global forest cover loss by 2030 and cut tropical deforestation by at least half by 2020 compared to 2008 levels². There is a pressing need to deliver on both these goals. Whilst some companies are pledging to cut their impact on deforestation³, governments are still failing to support this ambition through decisive action.

The 7th EU Environmental Action Programme acknowledges the need for the EU to address the environmental impact of EU consumption of food and non-food commodities and proposes an EU Action Plan on deforestation and forest degradation. Complementary, the Council supported the need to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) through increased financing and more overall climate ambition post 2020⁴.



9 mn ha

Between 1990 and 2008 an area of tropical forest the size of Portugal (9 million hectares) disappeared to produce commodities like palm oil, soy and beef destined to the EU⁵

HOW CAN MEPs IMPROVE THIS POLICY?

- Ensure the EU fulfils its commitment of halting global forest loss by 2030 and cutting tropical deforestation by at least half by 2020 compared to 2008 levels.
- Support the development of an EU Action Plan on deforestation and forest degradation to address the environmental impact of the EU's consumption of food and non-food commodities.
- Ensure that any EU action addressing deforestation receives sustained political and financial commitment and sufficiently involves all relevant stakeholders in the decision making process.
- Support funding mechanisms and trade policies that reward countries acting to limit forest loss associated with commodity production, to generate demand for more REDD+ action.

YOUR ACTION PLAN

- 1 Raise parliamentary questions to the Commission and the Council about EU actions to halt global forest loss by 2030 and cut tropical deforestation by at least half by 2020 compared to 2008 levels.
- 2 Urge the Commission to develop an ambitious and comprehensive Action Plan on deforestation and forest degradation by 2015. This should be based on proper multi-stakeholder consultations.
- 3 Ensure that an EU Action Plan on deforestation and forest degradation aims at:
 - making the EU's consumption and production more sustainable;
 - helping forested countries to end deforestation and forest degradation;
 - ensuring that the EU's consumption, investment and production are not linked to illegal activities, corruption and violation of customary land rights and legislation.

WE MUST ACT NOW!

- Globally, around 13 million hectares of forests were converted to other uses or lost through natural causes each year between 2000 and 2010⁶.
- The primary forest area globally decreased by 300 million ha since 1990, or an area larger than Argentina⁷.
- Agriculture is estimated to be the proximate driver of around 80% of deforestation worldwide⁸.
- Deforestation causes 12%-15% of global greenhouse gas emissions^{9,10}.

TIMELINE

By 2020:
tropical forest degradation must be halved, compared to 2008 levels

By 2030:
global forest cover loss must be halted, as pledged by EU environment ministers



13 mn

hectares of forests were converted to other uses or lost through natural causes each year between 2000 and 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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