



VIRGINIJUS SINKEVIČIUS
Commissioner for Environment
Oceans and Fisheries

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Dear members of the NSPA Steering Committee,

Thank you for your letter of 16 January 2024 and for sharing your concerns regarding the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). We appreciate the engagement and feedback from stakeholders which is crucial in shaping effective and workable policies.

The European Commission is committed to a smooth entry into application of the EUDR. We are addressing stakeholders' concerns through our Frequently Asked Questions¹ (FAQs) documents and are finalizing guidelines for additional clarity.

Regarding forest degradation, our definition, aligned with the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) classifications, specifically addresses the transition from forests of higher quality to those of lesser quality. This approach is intended to support, not interfere with, sustainable forest management practices, allowing for harvesting and replanting without degrading the forest.

On the traceability of sawdust and other materials, the European Commission acknowledges the challenges and has proposed aggregation as a practical solution. The declaration in excess mechanism, detailed in the latest FAQs, is designed to ensure due diligence statements account for all sourcing areas, for example all those contributing to a silo.

¹ <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/34861680-e799-4d7c-bbad-da83c45da458/library/e126f816-844b-41a9-89ef-cb2a33b6aa56/details>

We look forward to continuing our work with all stakeholders to address concerns and identify solutions that ensure both ambition on environmental protection and economic viability. Your input is invaluable, and we are open to further dialogue to refine the EUDR's implementation.

Thank you once again for your proactive involvement in this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'V. Sinkevičius', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Virginijus Sinkevičius