



European Commission  
 President  
 Dr Ursula von der Leyen  
 Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200  
 1049 Brussels  
 Belgium

17 February 2025

Dear President von der Leyen,

Strengthening Europe's competitiveness on the global stage is one of the central tasks for the coming years. Therefore, we very much welcome your statements on reducing bureaucracy and regulatory burdens for businesses.

Our member companies, predominantly family-run small and medium-sized enterprises competing internationally, urgently need relief and a signal of economic policy renewal. The years-long increase in bureaucratic hurdles must now be followed by a decisive reduction of these burdens to revitalise the economy and enable it to remain competitive internationally.

You have the opportunity to achieve one of your self-declared goals in the short term and thereby demonstrate how quickly and consistently you can translate your words into action: The introduction of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) creates an enormous burden of verification and documentation for thousands of companies across numerous industries. This burden is disproportionate to the objective of effectively curbing global deforestation and instead disproportionately affects economic sectors in Europe on an international scale.

Since the postponement of the EUDR at the end of 2024, no progress has been made towards a realistic implementation. The major issues with the EUDR remain: The regulation requires market participants to provide extensive, detailed information about their supply chains, leading to an absurd level of complexity and significant bureaucratic burdens without added value. Our companies continue to face substantial legal and economic uncertainties. The goal of curbing deforestation and protecting forests on other continents cannot be achieved by burdening the domestic forestry and wood industries. Illegal timber imports into Europe are already addressed by the long-standing predecessor regulation, the EUTR.

Abolishing the EUDR represents an excellent opportunity to truly reduce bureaucracy and thereby improve the acceptance of the European Union in rural areas. We therefore urge you to repeal the EUDR within the framework of the omnibus law to enhance Europe's competitiveness.

Sincerely,

Association of the  
**Austrian Wood Industries**

Mag. Herbert Jöbstl  
 Chairman

Mag. Heinrich Sigmund  
 MSc. Managing Director

**Croatian Wood Cluster**

Marijan Kavran  
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 Wood-Processing Enterprises  
 in the **Czech Republic**

Petr Pražan  
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Ing. Ivan Ševčík  
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Fabunio –  
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Attila Kálmán  
 President

**FAGOSZ – Hungarian Federation of Forestry and Wood Industries**

Sulyok Ferenc  
 President

**Polish Economic Chamber of the Wood Industry**

Piotr Poziomski  
 President

ZSD SR – The Association of Wood Processing Manufacturers (**Slovak Republic**)

PhDr. Peter Zemaník  
 President

CCIS – Wood Processing and Furniture Association (**Slovenia**)

Igor Milavec  
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