

## **UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section**

### **Online consultation with the forest products sector in the UNECE region on how to prepare for and comply with the European Union Regulation 2023/1115 on deforestation and forest degradation-free products (EUDR)**

Organized by the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products

Member States in the UNECE region have a long track-record in managing their forest and tree resources in a highly sustainable and multifunctional way. They ensure that their forests produce wood and at the same time deliver all the non-monetary services, such as filtering air and water, biodiversity, recreation etc.

About 41% of the global forest area is located in the region of the UNECE and are used to produce about 60% of wood used for products globally. The region is strongly committed to manage all forests sustainably and consequently more than 70% of the global forest area certified by third party organization for sustainable forest management is located in the region. International trade of wood-based products is highly interconnected – some countries in the UNECE region depend importing or exporting on more than 80% of some wood-based commodities.

This interconnection of countries via international trade in wood-based products led member States to take various measures in order to further reduce their impact on global deforestation and forest degradation. An increasing number of member States of the UNECE strive to ensure that wood and wood products are sourced legally and sustainably within their country and also in countries of origin of imported wood derived products. In this global context the European Commission adopted the Regulation on deforestation-free products on 29 June 2023. This is one of the far most ambitious far-reaching approaches, yet and will significantly impact production and trade of any wood-based product.

The members of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products (ToS) identified the preparation for and compliance with the European Union Regulation 2023/1115 on deforestation and forest degradation-free products (EUDR) as the key issue for forest products markets in the UNECE region in 2024.

## **Objective of the online consultation**

Offer a neutral platform for constructive discussion on how to best prepare for and comply with the EUDR. The objective is to find out about main common issues and obstacles, exchange on practical solutions and also identify about overlaps with other existing legal requirements on forest-based products that stakeholders need to comply with and which require streamlining to minimizing the bureaucratic burden for market actors.

## **Target audience**

The online consultation is for selected key associations of the forest-based industries in the UNECE region and participation will be upon invitation by the ToS only.

## **Limitation**

Any issues related to delaying, postponing or cancelling the EUDR are excluded from the discussion.

## **Way forward**

The ToS will summarize the outcome of the consultation and publish this on the website of the Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section. The ToS will also share these points with the European Commission and will seek to organize a feedback event with the aim to provide answers to the points raised.

## **Tentative schedule**

**Date:** Thursday 25 April 2024  
**Time:** 16:00-18:00 (CET)  
**Format:** Online meeting via MS Teams

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