
POLICY BRIEF | Dr. Metodi Sotirov

The EU Deforestation Regulation Is Already Delivering Results

Why further weakening during the Simplification Review risks undermining progress in global forest governance

Key Messages for EU Decision-Makers

- Even before full implementation, the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) is already delivering measurable improvements in traceability, governance, and transparency across global commodity supply chains.
- Governments and companies worldwide are investing in legality verification systems, geolocation-based traceability, and digital monitoring tools to meet EUDR requirements. These developments demonstrate that the regulation is not only feasible but already shaping global market practices.
- EU institutions have responded to stakeholder concerns by introducing substantial simplifications, implementation guidance, and extended timelines.
- The regulation applies equally to EU and third-country producers, ensuring compatibility with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules and avoiding trade distortions
- Reopening or weakening core provisions during the Simplification Review risks undermining existing investments, increasing legal uncertainty, and slowing progress toward deforestation-free supply chains.

Policy Recommendations

To consolidate early progress, EU policymakers should:

Maintain regulatory integrity

- Maintain deforestation-free, degradation-free, and legality standards
- Preserve geolocation-based traceability and due diligence requirements

Support implementation

- Provide targeted technical and financial support to producer countries and smallholders
- Continue structured dialogue with industry and partner countries

Ensure regulatory stability

- Avoid reopening or weakening the core provisions of the regulation
- Provide clear, consistent, and predictable implementation guidance that fully upholds the existing requirements

Why the EUDR Simplification Review

Following concerns about readiness, administrative burden, and technical challenges – particularly related to the information system – EU institutions supported targeted simplification of the EUDR.

The European Commission is currently conducting a simplification review, with a report expected by April 2026. This review will assess impacts, especially for smaller operators, and identify ways to improve implementation through guidance and technical adjustments.

While the Commission has indicated it does not intend to reopen the regulation, potential legislative proposals and delegated acts – particularly concerning product scope – create continued political and legal uncertainty.

Why Policy Stability Matters

Improving administrative efficiency is a legitimate objective. However, weakening or reopening core elements – especially due diligence obligations, legality requirements, and traceability – would risk undermining the regulation at a critical early stage.

Evidence shows that governments, companies, and civil society actors have already made substantial investments to comply with EUDR requirements.

Maintaining regulatory stability is therefore essential to

- protect these investments,
- ensure continued adaptation across supply chains, and
- sustain momentum toward deforestation-free markets.

Early Evidence of EUDR's Positive Impacts

1. Strengthening Government Responses and National Systems

- Governments in major tropical producer countries are actively adapting policy frameworks and developing traceability systems to meet EUDR requirements (Box 1).
- These initiatives strengthen monitoring of land-use change, improve enforcement of national laws, and support broader sustainability commitments.
- Compliance with EUDR also enables continued access to EU markets while facilitating exports to other major consumer countries (Australia, China, UK, USA).

Evidence Box 1 – Government Responses in Key Tropical Producer Countries

(Shortened, see Annex 1 for further details)

Major producer countries are implementing traceability systems and strengthening governance:

- **Brazil** is expanding national and state-level traceability platforms for soy, beef, coffee, and timber.
- **Cameroon** is implementing an EU-supported program to improve traceability for cocoa and coffee smallholders.
- **Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana** have introduced national cocoa traceability systems with farmer registration and digital identification.
- **Kenya** is geolocating coffee farms using remote sensing technologies.
- **Indonesia and Malaysia** are aligning national sustainability standards and developing integrated traceability systems.
- **Thailand and Vietnam** are implementing mapping, digitalisation, and national action plans to ensure compliance.

➔ These efforts strengthen governance, improve monitoring, and support continued access to international markets.

2. Supporting Positive Responses by Companies

- The EUDR is driving strong responses from companies, including SMEs, which are investing in traceability systems and adapting supply chains (Box 2).
- These developments increase transparency, reduce deforestation risks, and demonstrate that compliance is operational, cost-effective and scalable.

Evidence Box 2 – Business Responses

(Shortened, see Annex 1 for further details)

Private sector responses show rapid adaptation:

- Companies such as **Cargill** in cooperation with SMEs have successfully tested EUDR-compliant soy and palm oil export systems in **Brazil** and **Indonesia**.
- EUDR-compliant coffee exports by tropical countries' producers and traders have already occurred from **Brazil, Costa Rica, and Honduras**.
- Firms like **Simexco, Vietnam** have implemented full EUDR compliant coffee traceability systems across large sourcing areas.

Producers, mainly SMEs, are responding with preparations at scale:

- Around **50% of soy producers in Argentina** have aligned with EUDR standards.
- Producers in **Indonesia and Kenya** are adopting digital traceability tools, including for smallholders.

Major multinationals, such as **Michelin, Nestlé, Mars, Ferrero** have:

- invested in compliance systems
- warned against further delays or weakening

➔ Traceability is already feasible, cost-effective and driving global supply chain transformation.

3. Triggering Policy and Market Responses by major non-EU countries

- The EUDR is influencing policy and market developments beyond the EU (Box 3).
- While not all countries have adopted equivalent regulations, many are adapting policy frameworks, guidance and business practices, contributing to emerging global convergence.

Evidence Box 3 – Responses in Major Non-EU Countries

(Shortened, see Annex 1 for further details)

Key global responses include:

- **Australia:** developing EUDR related guidance and traceability tools
- **China:** strengthening timber legality frameworks; large firms and industry associations advancing EUDR related traceability despite SME challenges
- **United Kingdom:** introducing UK forest risk commodities due diligence regulations (UKFRCR, UKTR) and exploring their alignment with EUDR
- **United States:** proposing US forest risk commodities due diligence legislation (FOREST Act) and developing EUDR-related traceability infrastructure

Across these non-EU consumer and exporter countries and markets:

- Governments are adapting to EUDR, but issues and concerns remain
- Companies are pro-actively adopting due diligence and traceability systems
- deforestation free and legal commodities is slowly becoming a global market standard

➔ EUDR is already driving international regulatory convergence.

4. EUDR Simplification Already Addresses Key Concerns

- EU institutions have already introduced significant simplifications, including
 - extended implementation timelines,
 - risk benchmarking mechanisms,
 - digital reporting systems,
 - detailed guidance, and
 - international partnerships and cooperation.
- These simplification measures reduce administrative burden.

Evidence Box 4 – Overview of EUDR Simplification Amendments (CEU 2025, EC 2025)

In 2025, the Commission, the Parliament and the Council agreed and introduced amendments introducing simplification measures which shall reduce administrative costs and burden for companies covered by the Regulation. Key changes include:

1. **One-Year Additional Implementation Delay:** The regulation's enforcement deadline was extended to December 30, 2026 for Large and Medium operators, and Micro and Small operators already covered by the EUTR, and June 30 June 2027 for Micro and Small operators; together with the phase-in amendments in 2024, these changes provide altogether 2-year additional preparation time for operators and downstream actors compared to the original enforcement deadlines.
2. **Simplified Declaration for Micro and Small Primary Operators:** Operators from low-risk countries (e.g., EU-27) can submit a single simplified declaration, which only needs updating if there are significant changes in operations. This applies exclusively to products they have personally produced and directly placed on the EU market.
3. **Simplification for Downstream Operators:** Obligations mainly now target the initial operator introducing a product to the EU market. This first downstream operator needs to obtain the Due Diligence Statement (DDS) number from the original operator, but does not face extra geolocation or due diligence obligations. Larger downstream operators might have limited liability if they become aware of possible non-compliance.
4. To further reduce administrative burden, certain **printed products** (such as books, newspapers, printed pictures) were **removed from the scope of the regulation**, reflecting the limited deforestation risk associated with these items.

5. Ensuring Fair Competition and WTO Compatibility

(Brack 2024)

- The EUDR applies equally to EU and non-EU producers, ensuring compliance with WTO principles of non-discrimination.
- By requiring uniform standards, it creates a level playing field and strengthens responsible producers, while reducing unfair advantages from illegal or unsustainable production.

6. Preventing a Regulatory “Race to the Bottom”

(Berning and Sotirov 2023; Schulz et al. 2026)

- The EUDR counteracts “race to the bottom” dynamics where jurisdictions lower standards to attract investment.
- Instead, it promotes a “race to the top,” encouraging competition based on sustainability, legality, and product quality.
- This benefits responsible producers and traders while strengthening national environmental governance and global green trade.

7. Strategic Importance for EU Trade and Economic Security

(Sotirov et al. 2022; EC 2026; ITTO 2026; Schulz et al. 2026)

- The EUDR plays a key role in aligning EU trade policy with sustainability objectives.
- As the EU expands free trade agreements with regions such as MERCOSUR, ASEAN, African partners, and Eastern Partnership countries, deforestation and legality related standards are becoming increasingly important.
- Alignment with EUDR standards by regulations in producer and other consumer countries as well as with private regulation are identified to:
 - support international partnerships and regulatory convergence for mutual environmental and economic benefits;
 - reduce risks of market leakage and unintended negative effects;
 - strengthen EU’s and EU trade partner competitiveness in uncertain times of geopolitics;
 - protect producers and traders in EU and non-EU regions against unfair competition.

8. Cost-Benefits of EUDR and Costs of Inaction

(Nellemann and INTERPOL 2012; IPBES 2019; World Bank 2021; IPCC 2022; Profundo 2025; ResourceWise 2026)

- Evidence indicates that EUDR compliance is **manageable and cost-effective**, especially for first-movers;
- **Financial burden** of EUDR compliance is **manageable** and **relatively low** compared to overall market **revenues and further benefits** (e.g., market access, reputation).
- **Typical costs** include:
 - one-time investments (traceability systems, training)
 - ongoing operational costs (monitoring, reporting)
- **Estimated cost impacts** of the EUDR implementation:
 - ~0.1% of annual revenue
 - <2% of net profits
 - 0.001% to 0.07% or minimal consumer price effects
- In contrast, the **costs of inaction** are significantly higher:
 - deforestation contributes **10–15% of global emissions** leading to climate change negative impacts on society, land uses and nature of *billions* of \$/year
 - **biodiversity loss** and **ecosystem degradation** create major economic losses by shrinking the possibilities for sustainable commodity use over the long term;
 - **illegal activities** in the forest sector only generate over **\$150 billion annually** leading to huge loss of revenues for responsible governments and companies
- Weakening the EUDR would increase **environmental, economic, and market risks**.

Annex

Overview of case studies

(Based on *Sotirov, M. 2026. Contested but Converging Implementation of the EU Deforestation Regulation: The Brussels Effect along Global Agricultural and Timber Supply Chains. Accepted for presentation at Green Trade Lab Workshop, University of Basel, 22-23 June 2026. Full paper in preparation.*)

1. Government Responses in Key Tropical Producer Countries

Brazil (*Li et al. 2025; Garra 2025; Malessa et al. 2025*)

- Federal level: the Agro Brasil + Sustentável Platform, launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, integrates official government data and market information to improve traceability of beef and soy that can be aligned with the EUDR. The Federal Government - in cooperation with the private sector - has also developed a national plan for cattle identification and a mandatory full traceability data platform starting in 2027.
- State level: the already available SeloVerde public platform collects data from state and federal agencies to promote transparency and traceability of commodity supply chains in major producing states such as Pará, Acre and Minas Gerais; it can help verify compliance with the EUDR for coffee, soy, and timber/pulp from forest plantations.

Cameroon (*Miragenews 2024*)

- The Ministry of Economy, Planning and Land Planning of Cameroon, in collaboration with Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) donors such as the EU and the UK, has approved the implementation of a \$20 Mio. project to support the adaptation to EUDR, especially geolocation transparency, of cocoa and coffee small-scale producers who receive national subsidies of 12 Mio. €/annually for sustainable agriculture.

Côte d'Ivoire (*the Cooperator 2025*)

- In September 2023, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire adopted a National Coffee-Cocoa Traceability System, built on a digital platform that records all commercial transactions and includes a mechanism to label coffee and cocoa sacks. The regulatory body - the Coffee and Cocoa Board - conducted a census of farmers and their plots, and introduced electronic identification cards to 855,000 out of 993,000 registered farmers, including names, plot sizes, and other details used in sales and payment operations.

Ghana (*Li et al. 2025*)

- The Government of Ghana, through collaboration with EU funders and partners, has recently launched the [Ghana Cocoa Traceability System](#) to track cocoa beans from farm to port to align with the EUDR requirements. The government has also developed training programs for cocoa farmers and other supply chain actors to support the implementation of the new system and promote transparency in the supply chain.

Indonesia (*SIPPO 2024; EC 2024; TFA 2024; RRI 2026*)

- The Ministry of Forestry of Indonesia (former Ministry of Environment and Forestry) has strengthened the digital-based Timber Legality and Sustainability Verification System SVLK+ to ensure not only the legality but also sustainability of *timber*, full end-to-end traceability, compliance with environmental standards and transparent supply chain management. Through SVLK+, the Government of Indonesia aligns its national timber governance system with international regulations, including due diligence and anti-deforestation standards under the EUDR, to maintain credibility and strengthen its trade position in global markets, also including with the USA.
- Supported by the private sector and EU, the Government of Indonesia has developed a National Dashboard Initiative for five commodities subject to EUDR including cacao, coffee, palm oil, natural rubber, and timber to ensure an integrated system for a reliable traceability and geolocation of those commodities. Data covers not only mills and private companies but also smallholders, along with a government programme to support smallholders in gaining compliance under EUDR. A 2024 joint EU-Indonesian assessment found several commonalities between the data collected by the national policy on Indonesia Sustainable Palm Oil (ISPO) and its IT system, and the information required by the EUDR. Several key adaptations that can make ISPO comply with the EUDR are also identified, incl. deforestation definition and cut-off date.

Malaysia (*Li et al. 2025*):

- The Government of Malaysia has aligned its mandatory palm oil sustainability standard, the Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO), with the EUDR as regards legality and deforestation cutoff dates, while also working on solutions to gaps such as the lack of polygon-level geolocation for plots larger than 4 hectares. Earlier in 2025, the country also launched a new digital system, [MSNR Trace](#), to trace natural rubber from plantations to end products in support of EUDR compliance.

Thailand (*EFI 2024*)

- Thailand's government has supported natural rubber producers in complying with the EUDR by mapping production areas and collecting geolocation data to ensure deforestation-free rubber production, mitigating risks of market exclusion. These efforts demonstrate the country's proactive approach to aligning with the EUDR.

Vietnam (*Li et al. 2025; Houg 2026*)

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of Vietnam informed the European Commission of its strategic decision to make EU and non-EU market exports of coffee, natural rubber, and timber/wood products comply with the EUDR while building reputation and brand value for those Vietnamese products. The Government has also developed an action plan to adapt to the EUDR including improving mechanisms, providing technical guidance, digitizing data, strengthening communication, and mobilizing resources to support businesses. Government has supported the establishment of national systems for data collection, traceability and monitoring of supply chains, and provision of livelihood diversification for farmers in high-risk areas.

2. Business Responses in Key Tropical Producer Countries and Along Supply Chains

Argentina (TFA 2024)

- After adoption of the EUDR 2022, half of all soy producers in Argentina (ca. 30.000) – being members of the Visión Sectorial del Gran Chaco Argentino (VISEC) that is a private sector platform to monitor Argentina's soy supply chain with a particular aim to curb deforestation in the Gran Chaco aligned their approach with the EUDR; They also committed to provide deforestation-free soy not only to Europe but also to further important export markets in Asia (e.g., China, India, Indonesia, 66 % of all exports), based on EUDR's cut-off date of December 2020. Their main rationale is to avoid additional huge investment costs for new physical segregation silos and plants to meet the obligation to comply with EUDR and the interest to serve the EU market that has a share of 22% of all soy exports.

Brazil (RSPO 2025; AI-Invest Verde 2024)

- Olab conducted a dry-run simulation of EUDR-compliant soy exports from Brazil in 2023. The project tested traceability systems, legality verification, and deforestation-free sourcing in a real-world export scenario. The findings, published in a detailed report, offer practical insights into the challenges and solutions for aligning soy supply chains with EUDR requirement.
- First shipments of EUDR-compliant coffee from Minas Gerais, Brazil to Ireland; these exports were achieved through a collaborative effort involving the Minas Gerais State Government (SEAPA), the Cooperative of Coffee Growers of Três Pontas, and the SeloVerde platform developed by the UFMG, CIT, IEF, and SEAPA

Costa Rica (UN-REDD 2024)

- First shipments of deforestation-free *coffee* from *Costa Rica* to *Italy* under a REDD+ project framework, aligning with the EUDR requirements; the process involved utilising geolocation data to segregate compliant coffee from non-compliant production, with no significant additional costs for producers, apart from the paperwork and processing adjustments required).

Honduras (Eurekalert 2025).

- Honduras completed its first EUDR-compliant coffee export using a low-cost, open-source digital traceability system that geolocates farms and tracks supply chains while protecting farmer data. Led by Bioversity-CIAT and partners, the pilot supports smallholder inclusion and helps secure EU market access ahead of the 2026 EUDR deadline

Indonesia (TFA 2024)

- Palm oil producers in Indonesia - mainly SMEs - have used the EUDR to successfully push the government of Indonesia to improve the management of smallholders in the value chains. The Government has now to issue legal orders that include a minimum of 10%-20% of smallholders within the supply chain mix providing commodities to European markets. Producers have also worked with the Government on the National Dashboard Initiative that covers larger mills, private companies and smallholders, along with a governmental aid for smallholders for EUDR compliance.
- The multinational food company Cargill serving the EU market has decided to buy RSPO certified palm oil fresh fruit bunches directly from smallholders in West Kalimantan, Indonesia and store the commodity in segregated silos at its mills. Cargill also provides sustainably farming training to the palm oil producers who are usually smallholders. This company-to-producers market cooperation enables a robust traceability process that conforms to the RSPO and EUDR requirements. After risky intermediaries are eliminated from the supply chain altogether, this results in less transportation costs and in a good commodity price for certified farmers that is better than what the middlemen pay.

Vietnam (Simexcod 2024)

- Simexco Dak Lak became the first Vietnamese company globally to achieve 4C-EUDR certification for coffee production; after 10 months of preparation, Simexco implemented a comprehensive traceability system, collecting geo-coordinates and polygons for all sourcing areas, and conducting legality self-assessments in line with the 4C Code of Conduct. The company collaborated closely with local farmers across 90,000 hectares to ensure compliance with EUDR standards, including legal land use, deforestation-free sourcing, and international labor and indigenous rights conventions.

Multiple countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria as well as Indonesia and Thailand (Michelin 2024)

- Despite the political decisions to delay the regulation, Michelin Group decided to apply the EUDR as initially planned, starting January 2025, to all-natural rubber used in its tires and products, not only in Europe but worldwide. Over 18 months, the Michelin Group developed the tools and processes needed to be compliant with the EUDR to guarantee and monitor a sustainable and virtuous natural rubber supply chains, further strengthening a public commitment made in 2015 to source only deforestation-free natural rubber.

Multiple countries: Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay (Cargill 2023)

- In 2023, Cargill announced an accelerated commitment to eliminate deforestation and land conversion from its direct and indirect supply chain of row crops, including soy, corn, wheat, and cotton in Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay by 2025.

Global supply chains, multi-country, worldwide (Segal, 2025)

- On October and November 2025, multinational food companies such as Nestlé, Mars Wrigley and Ferrero sent a series of warning letters to the EU to not further delay and weaken the EUDR. Companies warned that new delays will increase legal and market uncertainty, and inflict substantial sunk costs on companies and unfairly punish companies who have already made investments to comply with the new requirements, while rewarding laggards. The worried companies also stated that they have made the necessary investments and on-the-ground engagement to comply with the EUDR. They also added that any delay or weakening of the EUDR would fatally compromise the EU's reputation as a reliable partner of producing countries in halting deforestation

3. Triggering Policy and Business Responses in Major Non-EU Consumer and Exporter Countries Worldwide

Australia

- The Government and businesses of Australia have reacted to the EUDR with a mix of concern over compliance burdens and a positive strategic adaptation in view of the EU export market importance (DAFF 2026).
- While the EUDR is not directly covered, the Government of Australia and the EU have entered legally binding commitments in the *Australia-EU Free Trade Agreement* to combat deforestation and illegal logging issues (DFAT 2026; EC 2026).
- The Australian Government, together with state governments, have created State Specific Guidelines that support due diligence compliance with Australia's illegal logging prohibition laws (ILPA; ILPR), that were inspired by the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) (Sotirov et al. 2022). They may help EU importers understand the requirements relevant to EUDR, especially for wood products (DAFF 2026).
- The Australian Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program, a voluntary initiative of Australia's red meat businesses, has introduced a geolocation sharing tool to provide the information needed for EUDR. LPA's main interest is to support the continuation of Australian exports of beef, leather and hides to the EU premium market under EUDR (LPA 2026). Other beef farm-related traceability tools are also being developed and offered by private companies, such as the [Cibolabs EUDR Deforestation Assessment Service](#), to help verify compliance and share required information (Cibolabs 2025).

People's Republic of China

- The Government of China promotes green trade and biodiversity strategies, but it still lacks a deforestation policy framework and coordinated policy stance on the EUDR, which creates legal uncertainty for companies (BellaTerra 2026).
- After intensive policy dialogues during a multi-year EU-China Bilateral Coordination Mechanism on Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (Moussy 2019), the Government amended the National Forest Law (Art. 65) in 2019 introducing a legal ban on buying, processing or transporting illegally sourced timber; this shows that China supports global efforts towards legal timber trade that is mainly promoted by the US Lacey Act and the EUTR that EUDR builds on and extends (Sotirov et al. 2022).

- While the Chinese Surveying and Mapping Law, Data Security Law, and Personal Information Protection Law introduce a degree of regulatory caution, none creates an outright legal ban on sharing geolocation data under the EUDR when handled correctly. Many Chinese companies are already sharing coordinates. The Chinese Embassy in Vienna has issued no statement against data sharing. The EU Commission is directly engaging with Chinese stakeholders through high-level digital and data dialogues - such as the 2023 “Cross-Border Data Flow Communication Mechanism” to address business concerns and improve clarity on data flows (CMS 2025).
- As a major global processing hub for forest-risk commodities, China’s larger wood/pulp, natural rubber, and leather industries are pro-actively but unevenly preparing for EUDR. In contrast, SMEs in these sectors struggle with traceability due to limited capacity and technical barriers to manage complex sourcing from high-risk regions (e.g., Russia, South East Asia, Central Africa) (BellaTerra 2026).
- In view of reputational considerations and significant value of China’s timber product exports to the EU market (7,1 billion €/year), wood and pulp sector is most advanced in its preparations for the EUDR. Export-oriented industry associations (e.g. CNFPIA, CFCC), large domestic firms and state-owned enterprises (e.g., wooden furniture, flooring, windows/doors, plywood, paper), and multinational retailers (e.g., IKEA) are developing traceability tools, aligning their legality verification systems, and expanding third party certification (FSC, PEFC) with due diligence protocols (BellaTerra 2026).
- In the rubber sector, industry associations (e.g., China Rubber Industry Association) are supporting EUDR preparation through guidance, workshops, and sustainable sourcing initiatives. Leading companies (e.g. Linglong Tyre) are adopting certification schemes and digital traceability systems (BellaTerra 2026).
- The leather sector shows more limited and indirect preparation. Industry efforts focus on voluntary guidelines and ESG alignment, while leading brands (e.g. Anta) are strengthening supply chain controls (BellaTerra 2026).

The United Kingdom (UK)

- The UK Government considers that the EUDR sits alongside its policy efforts to ensure its consumption is not driving deforestation. The UK Government introduced in Schedule 17 of the Environment Act in 2021, further defined in the Forest Risk Commodity Regulations (UKFRCR) in 2023, a legal ban on forest risk commodities such as cattle, cocoa, oil palm oil, and soy, and derivatives that have been produced with links to illegal deforestation. The regulations oblige companies serving the UK market to implement and annually report on a due diligence system (Barclay 2023). During policy debates in the Houses of Parliament, including in July 2025, UK Minister confirmed that the UK is “committed to resetting the relationship with the EU [including] closer engagement on issues exactly like this on deforestation” and looking at how the UK “aligns with” the EUDR (Weil 2026).
- Multinational UK retailers sourcing cocoa, palm oil, soy, and cattle products (e.g., Aldi, Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury’s, Tesco, Morrisons, Waitrose & Partners) and timber traders (e.g., UK Timber Development) have called on the UK Government to swiftly introduce the UKFRCR enacting legislation and bundle the existing UK Timber Regulations into UKFRCR while aligning them as much as possible with EUDR; their main economic interest is to ease trade with the priority EU market, avoid losing EU consumers, minimise burdens on businesses, and avoid reputational disadvantages (Retail Soy Group 2024; ITTO 2025).

United States of America (USA)

- Inspired by the EUDR and with a bipartisan support, the U.S. Congress reintroduced the U.S. FOREST Act (Fostering Overseas Rule of Law and Environmentally Sound Trade) in 2023 (S.3371) to restrict imports of cattle cocoa, palm oil, rubber and soy linked to illegal deforestation. This bill is however progressing slowly through the legislative process. State governments in California, Colorado, Illinois, and New York have recently started developing public procurement bills and executive orders that request deforestation-free and degradation-free commodities (Agroberichtenbuitenland 2024).
- To support national economic interest, the U.S. Trade Representative has directly requested some of its key trade partners from third countries such as Brazil and Peru to combat illegal deforestation and illegal logging (Weil 2026).
- The U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Aid (USAID) have financially supported U.S. based World Resources Institute (WRI) and its governmental and private sector partners for a five-year partnership on Forest Data Partnership. Now funded by the EU, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as part of the Team Europe Initiative on Deforestation-free Value Chains, the Forest Data Partnership is developing an open source digital public infrastructure to accelerate global supply chain traceability and support SME's and companies to meet the EUDR (WRI 2024).
- The U.S. Government - under both the Biden and Trump administrations – has however called on the EU to delay or revise the EUDR in light of its expected impact on U.S. companies. As a response, the EU committed in a Joint Statement on the Framework Agreement to “work to address the concerns of U.S. producers and exporters regarding the [EUDR], with a view to avoiding undue impact on U.S.-EU trade” (Weil 2026).
- Despite the ongoing EU-US policy debates, the need for supply chain traceability is increasing in the US (and Canada), as companies, suppliers and purchasers (e.g., Starbucks, Kellanova/Kellog, Protector & Gamble, The Home Depot) are facing public and market pressure to disclose their impact on forests (Agroberichtenbuitenland 2024). Likewise, and due to large EU export market share (ca. 3,5 billion USD/year), US based and other non-EU forest industry companies are beginning to demand geolocation data from US forest owners to prepare for EUDR compliance. The EUDR is hence progressively becoming common standard for both companies who do business with Europe and who don't intend to do so (Keene 2025; Resource Wise 2025).
- Contrary to policy statements of industry associations, full compliance with EUDR by U.S. pulp, paper, packaging, biomass, and timber businesses is not only achievable - it is partly already being executed. U.S. data exist but it has to be centralized, standardized, or connected across thousands of suppliers. The private company Resource Wise has hence developed the U.S.-Built Platform Forest Trackt that uses satellite data, parcel maps, state land databases, and mobile geolocation apps that make polygon-level traceability and due diligence statements in line with the EUDR feasible and dependable (ResourceWise 2025).

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As of 1st April 2026



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