

Amsterdam Declaration
**“Towards Eliminating Deforestation
from Agricultural Commodity Chains with
European Countries”**

by undersigned European countries

Denmark

*Eva Kjer Hansen,
Minister for the Environment and Food*

France [tentative]

*Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development*

Germany

*Gerd Müller,
Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Germany
Christian Schmidt,
Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture*

Netherlands

*Lillian Ploumen,
Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation*

United Kingdom

*Justine Greening,
Secretary of State for International Development*

*Amsterdam
The Netherlands*

7 December 2015

PREAMBLE

Global Goals on Sustainable Development

On 25 September 2015 the *Sustainable Development Goals* were adopted. Our ambition to eliminate deforestation from agricultural supply chains and promoting sustainable economic development is based on the Sustainable Development Goals and is also a contribution to an inter-sectoral and holistic agenda for poverty reduction (#1), food security and nutrition (#2), gender equality (#5), water and sanitation (#6), sustainable consumption and production (#12), climate action (#13) and halting land degradation and biodiversity loss (#15).

Responsible management of supply chains and sustainable trade are important cornerstones in reaching sustainable development, as through global value chains consuming and producing countries have a shared responsibility for sustainable business practices. Responsible business conduct, supportive governance and a strong civil society are important elements for achieving sustainable trade. We request national forest law enforcement, and strongly encourage the consequent application of internationally recognized labour, social and environmental standards and principles in global supply chains. More synergies between aid & trade will help to reach the Sustainable Development Goals and our goals on climate change. Policy options regarding the elimination of deforestation from agricultural commodity supply chains have been identified in the EC Report on Consumption and Deforestation (2013-065).

“Eliminating deforestation”

Our objective to promote "eliminating deforestation" is a non-legally binding, political intention and supports the private-sector goal of zero net deforestation and, in particular, the commitments expressed in the New York Declaration on Forests, underlining the global importance to preserve primary forests and high conservation value areas a.o. through responsible supply chain management. The signatories therefore reiterate the *New York Declaration on Forests's* vision of joint actions by all stakeholders. In addition, we welcome the private sector goals for eliminating deforestation from global supply chains.

In the context of climate change

The latest report by the *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC AR5)* states: “total anthropogenic Green House Gas (GHG) emissions have continued to increase over 1970 to 2010 with larger absolute decadal increases toward the end of this period (high confidence)”. In 2010, 24% (12 GtCO₂eq) of total net emission was associated to Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses – AFOLU - (IPCC AR5). Moreover, according to the FAO (2014) AFOLU emissions may still increase by up to 30% if the status quo remains unchanged.

We support an ambitious global climate agreement to be reached at the UNFCCC-COP21. We reiterate the importance of continued action on reducing emissions by deforestation and forest degradation in order to reach the goal of not exceeding 2°C warming and the need to strengthen the role of forests in resilience to climate change, poverty reduction and resource security. We are convinced that only with joint action by the public and private sector to combat deforestation we will be able to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the targets of the New York Declaration on Forests and an agreement on climate change to be reached.

THE DECLARATION

“Recognising the need to eliminate deforestation in relation to agricultural commodity trade with our countries, we - as European countries and as member states of the European Union - take note and declare ourselves supportive of the private-sector and public initiatives to halt deforestation by no later than 2020”

In support of this declaration:

- 1. We reiterate our objectives to support and help meet the private sector goal of eliminating deforestation from the production of agricultural commodities such as beef and leather, palm oil, paper and pulp, soy and other commodities such as cocoa and rubber by no later than 2020, recognizing that many companies have even more ambitious targets as for example expressed in the ‘New York Declaration on Forests’.*
- 2. We encourage more companies to join initiatives to eliminate deforestation and step up their commitments to eliminate deforestation from their agricultural commodity supply chains.*
- 3. We invite companies involved in Europe-related global agricultural supply chains to implement the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and notably the forthcoming FAO-OECD Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains. This is in support of a European-wide implementation of corporate social responsibility reporting and enhancing transparency on the carbon and forest footprint of their supply chains.*
- 4. We invite and encourage other European countries and the Commission to join us in working with multi-stakeholder partnerships to eliminate deforestation from agricultural commodity supply chains, working coherently on supply chain instruments, landscape-scale approaches and climate change instruments.*
- 5. We invite the Commission to foster and enhance public-private partnership initiatives of member states by facilitating an annual dialogue with the private sector and industry associations and all other relevant stakeholders on progress, bottlenecks and opportunities in the public-private sphere towards achievement of eliminating deforestation from agricultural commodity chains.*
- 6. We welcome and encourage the EU trade policy ‘Trade for all’ which recognises the importance of responsible supply chains, fair trade, good governance, sustainable development, and working closely together with producer countries and development cooperation partner countries to take coherent action in support of sustainable growth objectives.*
- 7. We invite the Commission to include elimination of deforestation from agricultural commodity supply chains in current dialogues and agreements with producer countries. We will support the Commission in exploring options to integrate eliminating deforestation in relation to agricultural commodity trade in the Chapter on Trade and Sustainable Development in bilateral EU trade and investment agreements. In line with international commitments this is supportive of the aim of strengthening forest governance, transparency and the rule of law, while also empowering communities and taking into account the situation of indigenous peoples and local communities - especially those pertaining to their lands and resources -, and the rights of persons (especially women) belonging to these populations.*
- 8. We support the Commission in jointly assessing the policy options identified in ‘The impact of EU consumption on deforestation’ (EC Technical Report 2013-065). We would welcome an EC feasibility study and roadmap towards EU action (in line with EU Environment Action Programme, #1386/2013).*