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EUDR: The right wrecks the fight against deforestation

Today, a majority comprised of the EPP and far right have adopted the trilogue outcome on the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). The Greens/EFA Group had urged the Commission to withdraw its proposal to reopen the legislation and instead address technical IT issues without weakening the legislation. The trilogue agreement delays implementation by a further year, introduces a simplification review clause, weakens traceability, and widens already broad exemptions. These changes completely undermine the EU's credibility and ability to fight against global deforestation.

Marie Toussaint MEP, shadow rapporteur on the EUDR and Vice-President of the Greens/EFA Group, comments:

“The trilogue was concluded with a disastrous agreement imposed by the EPP and the far right: a one-year delay for large companies, until mid-2027 for smaller companies, and a tailor-made exemption for micro and small-primary producers.

“Even worse, the exemption for the book and print sector has been approved, without proper assessment, setting a dangerous precedent. Tomorrow, the leather goods and other sectors will demand their own special treatment, while deforestation linked to paper pulp continues to increase, particularly in Indonesia.

“At a time when climate change is accelerating and carbon sinks are collapsing, dismantling this legislation is irresponsible. This is especially concerning given that the EUDR serves as a safeguard within the framework of the EU-Mercosur trade agreement, which remains a priority for the European Commission.

“Contrary to previous assurances, the revision represents yet another example of deregulation.”

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