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Study | 08.06.2022

# Proposed EU regulation on deforestation and forest degradation

## Understanding the impact of excluding other ecosystems

### A case study presented by Trase

The European Commission has proposed new legislation to restrict the sale of agricultural commodities such as soy, beef and palm oil unless they are “deforestation-free”. This legislation is sorely needed, as the EU is the world’s third largest importer of tropical deforestation and associated emissions, surpassed only by China and India.

How “forest” is defined in the legislation will affect its reach and impact. Currently, the proposal uses the definition of “forest” set out by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Our case study on EU soy and beef imports from South America shows that this narrow focus on protecting FAO “forests” could increase pressure on other precious ecosystems.

As proposed, the legislation would leave three quarters of the Cerrado (79 million hectares) and a third of the Gran Chaco (32 million hectares) unprotected. Yet most of the conversion associated with the EU’s soy and beef imports from South America is in these areas.

If the legislation’s scope is extended to “other wooded land” as defined by the FAO, this would decrease the unprotected Cerrado and Gran Chaco area to 18 and 24 percent, respectively. But large areas of savannah and grasslands would still be vulnerable to EU-driven ecosystem conversion.

The legislation should therefore be amended to cover agricultural commodities produced on land converted from any natural ecosystems, not only forests and other wooded land.

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Press release

sebastian-johann



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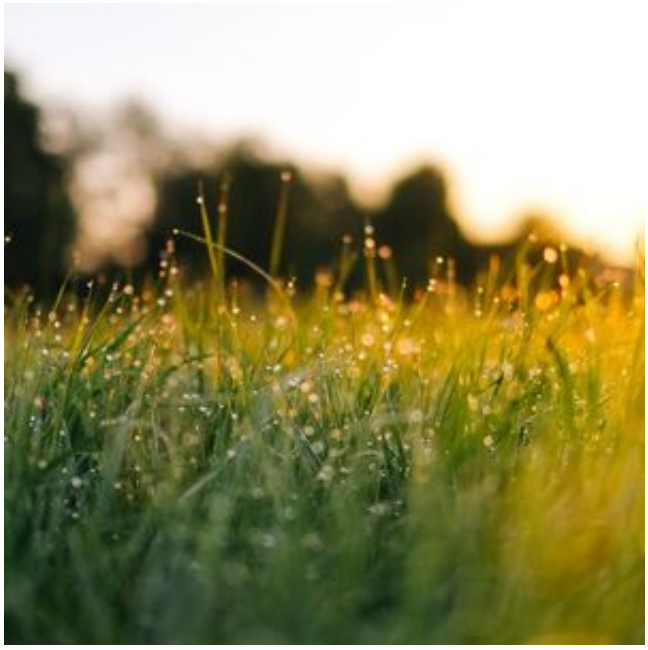
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**Responsible MEPs**



Marie Toussaint

Vice-President

**Contact person**



Franziska Achterberg

Biodiversity campaigner

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Deforestation and forest degradation

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