

Generation Climate Europe Statement on the Potential Postponement of the EU Deforestation Regulation

We, Generation Climate Europe (GCE), express deep concern over the European Commission's reported plans to postpone the implementation of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) by up to one year, as we firmly believe that any delay at this stage would severely undermine Europe's credibility as a global climate and biodiversity leader and send a dangerous signal that commercial convenience can outweigh planetary responsibility. Forests continue to disappear at alarming rates, and the EU remains one of the world's largest importers of embedded deforestation.

While we recognise the need to support small and micro-operators and ensure proper digital infrastructure for traceability, a blanket delay risks creating loopholes, legal uncertainty, and competitive disadvantages for companies already investing in compliance. Above all, it would erode trust among citizens and young people who expect the EU to deliver on its environmental promises.

GCE calls on the European Commission, the European Parliament, and Member States to uphold the 30 December 2025 implementation deadline for all large operators and importers, while offering targeted and transparent support for smaller ones, not a full postponement.

We further urge policymakers to:

- Maintain full due diligence and geolocation requirements without exemptions.
- Ensure public transparency on the readiness of the EUDR IT system and progress toward implementation.
- Provide technical and financial assistance for smallholders in producer countries to comply without being excluded from the EU market.
- Involve youth and civil society in monitoring and accountability mechanisms to ensure long-term integrity and inclusivity.

In this critical decade, Europe must choose leadership over hesitation. The EUDR is a cornerstone of the EU Green Deal and a signal of global responsibility. Generation Climate Europe urges the Commission to stand firm: implement the law on time, close the loopholes, and protect the world's forests for people, for climate, and for the generations to come.