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COMMUNICATION TO THE COMMISSION

Approval of the content of a draft Communication from the Commission on the Strategic Framework for International Cooperation Engagement in the context of Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 on the making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation

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The Commission has made the European Green Deal¹ a high political priority. Deforestation and forest degradation contribute to the global climate crisis in multiple ways. Most importantly, they increase greenhouse gas emissions through associated forest fires, permanently removing carbon sink capacities, decreasing the climate change resilience of the affected area and substantially reducing its biodiversity and resilience to diseases and pests. Deforestation alone accounts for 11 % of greenhouse gas emissions as stated in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report on climate change and land of 2019.

After ordinary legislative procedure, Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 May 2023 on the making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation and repealing Regulation (EU) No 995/2010² entered into force on 29 June 2023.

In efforts to facilitate its implementation and to fulfil its objectives, the EU Deforestation Regulation, in its Article 30, advocates for strong international cooperation and engagement based on a dedicated Strategic Framework.

Article 30 (1) of the EUDR stipulates the following:

“The Commission, on behalf of the Union, and interested Member States shall engage in a coordinated approach with producer countries and parts thereof that are concerned by this Regulation, in particular those classified as high risk in accordance with Article 29 through existing and future partnerships, and other relevant cooperation mechanisms to jointly address the root causes of deforestation and forest degradation. The Commission shall develop a comprehensive Union strategic framework for such engagement and shall consider mobilising relevant Union instruments.”

The draft Communication from the Commission in the Annex aims to provide a Strategic Framework on the Union’s engagement for International Cooperation Engagement on deforestation-free supply chains in the context of Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 .

¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions ‘The European Green Deal’, COM(2019) 640 final.

² OJ L 150, 9.6.2023, p. 206–247, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/1115/oj>

The Commission is called upon to approve the content of this draft Communication from the Commission on the Strategic Framework for International Cooperation Engagement in the context of Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 on the making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation.

The Communication from the Commission on the Strategic Framework will be formally adopted by the Commission later, when all languages are available.