

Statement on the EUDR vote in the European Parliament today

EuroCommerce – the association representing retailers and wholesalers in Europe - notes the outcome of today's vote by the European Parliament on the EU regulation for deforestation-free products (EUDR). We fully support the important objectives to halt deforestation to which many of our members already made longstanding commitments, and considerable efforts and investments have been made for its preparation. **We, therefore, strongly urge the negotiating parties to make sure the proposed additional transition period is not compromised.** This time is needed to address remaining uncertainties regarding implementation, reduce complexities and for preparation by suppliers in our supply chains. We also urge the Commission to ensure the readiness of the information system and the application programming interface within the shortest delay.

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Contact:

Daniela Haiduc | Head of Communications, haiduc@eurocommerce.eu, 0473 562 936

EuroCommerce is the principal European organisation representing the retail and wholesale sector. It embraces national associations in 28 countries and 5 million companies, including leading global players and many small businesses. Over a billion times a day, retailers and wholesalers distribute goods and provide an essential service to millions of business and individual customers. The sector generates 1 in 7 jobs, offering a varied career to 26 million Europeans, many of them young people. It also supports millions of further jobs throughout the supply chain, from small local suppliers to international businesses. EuroCommerce is the recognised European social partner for the retail and wholesale sector.