



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Amsterdam Declarations – Combating imported deforestation
- Information from the French, Danish, German, Netherlands and United
Kingdom delegations

Delegations will find in the Annex a note from the French, Danish, German, Netherlands and United Kingdom delegations on the above subject, which will be discussed under 'Any other business' at the Environment Council meeting on 5 March 2018.

Amsterdam Declarations – Combating imported deforestation

- Information from the French, Danish, German, Netherlands and United Kingdom delegations

France, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, as the signatory states of the Amsterdam Declarations, would like to draw the Council's attention to the need for strong ambition at EU level to combat deforestation.

The Declarations, initiated in 2015 ahead of the Netherlands Presidency, promote the elimination of deforestation from agricultural supply chains in signatory countries by supporting private sector efforts towards the goal of achieving the deforestation-free production of beef and leather, palm oil, paper and pulp, soya and other raw materials such as cocoa and rubber by 2020, through a four-pronged approach:

- promoting European Union action on climate, deforestation and trade;
- stimulating a global value chain strategy on imported agricultural raw materials that endanger forests;
- improving dialogue with major consumers and producer countries;
- improving transparency and the use of voluntary reporting.

As chair of the Amsterdam Group, France is planning to organise several events in the first half of this year, including:

- a meeting with the Amsterdam Group countries on 12 March;
- a multi-stakeholder conference in Paris on 27 June.

In its role as chair, together with the other members of the Amsterdam Group, France calls for:

- the publication, as soon as possible, of the results of the European Commission's feasibility study;
- the proposal, also as soon as possible, of an ambitious Commission strategy to combat imported deforestation;

and encourages other Member States to:

- sign up to the Amsterdam Declarations and take action to combat deforestation;
- strengthen cooperation and bilateral relations by promoting partnerships with producer and consumer countries, giving preference to small producers;
- step up zero-deforestation activities in the areas of governance, transparency, monitoring commitments and scientific cooperation.
