

EU Council Wants to Postpone EUDR and Implement Further Amendments

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On 19 November, the EU member states agreed on a negotiation position for the EU Council regarding the EU Regulation on Deforestation-Free Products (EUDR). This agreement became possible based on a proposal submitted by the German Federal Government the previous week, as the Ministry of Agriculture confirmed.

The EU Council now enters the trilogue negotiations with the European Parliament and the EU Commission with a set of demands. These include: postponing the start of application for all companies by one year, eliminating the collection of reference numbers along the EU supply chain, and requiring the EU Commission to explore further possibilities for reducing bureaucracy in the EUDR and report back to member states by April 2026.

An alliance of associations from the German wood industry is urging Members of the European Parliament to approve the Council's proposal. The proposal, according to the industry, provides a practical and legally secure foundation for implementing the regulation while preventing unnecessary bureaucracy for companies.

Thomas Goebel, Managing Director of GD Holz, stated: "The decision in the EU Council is an important step toward practical solutions for implementing the EUDR... We continue to advocate for the complete removal of the obligation to pass on reference numbers."

Max von Elverfeldt, Chairman of Family Businesses in Agriculture and Forestry, said: "The Council's position is a turning point. It shows clearly that this regulation, in its previous form, was not sustainable. A fundamental overhaul is now needed... It is now up to the European Parliament to prevent any setbacks in the trilogue and ensure further simplifications."

Felix Pakleppa, Chief Executive of the German Construction Industry Association, commented that the Council's decision protects medium-sized construction

companies from immense administrative burdens.

Christian Haase, President of the German Forestry Council (DFWR), assessed the developments positively: "The German proposal is practical and moves in the right direction. The goals of the regulation can only be achieved if businesses have enough time, technical solutions, and clear procedures... However, we are not yet at the finish line. The postponement of the start of application must be accompanied by a reliable timetable. Forest owners and forestry companies also need enough time to test the new procedures. I therefore support calls for a test and introductory phase to trial digital systems and control mechanisms. Only a gradual approach can ensure that the regulation works in practice and does not overwhelm businesses."

Looking ahead to the trilogue, the DFWR continues to advocate that the improvements already initiated should be preserved and further specified. The goal must be an EUDR that strengthens environmental and climate protection without disproportionately burdening sustainable forest management and the entire value chain.