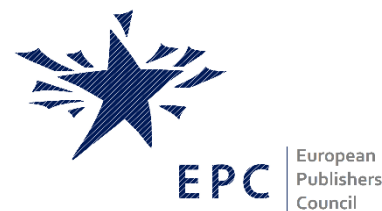


Support the EUDR Adaptation Period Extension to Safeguard Media and Information Access



Brussels, 12 November 2024

Honourable Member of the European Parliament,

The undersigned organizations are fully committed to the transition to deforestation-free supply chains and have been working closely with the European Commission and partner countries to achieve this goal. While the EUDR will prove complex and burdensome to operators down the paper supply chain, progress has been made, but several critical steps must still be completed before operators and traders can fully comply with their due diligence, risk assessment, and traceability obligations under the EUDR. For this reason, **we call on you to support the extend of the implementation deadline as proposed by the European Commission.**

The extension is necessary in order to allow for the completion of some essential steps:

- The full implementation of the country benchmarking system, which will categorize countries or areas based on deforestation risk.
- The finalization and launching the deforestation registry information system, which is still being tested.
- The continued refinement of guidelines and clarifications on key definitions and obligations within the regulation.

The delay in finalising these components has placed operators and traders, including the undersigned, in a challenging position. Without these tools in place, compliance with the EUDR by the end of the current (original) adaptation period is unfeasible, potentially leading to operational disruptions and fines.

For the media and publishing sector, this could mean significant constraints in the distribution of printed materials, such as magazines, books, newspapers and journals.

The potential shortage of compliant paper supply could undermine not only the viability of many publishing businesses but also the freedom of information, press, and democracy in Europe. Supermarkets and other critical distribution channels are already signalling that after December 2024 they will not carry products which might be considered non-compliant, which poses a further threat to access to diverse information sources.

In light of these risks, we strongly urge Members of the European Parliament **to support the proposed extension of the adaptation period for operators and traders.** This extension will allow the necessary tools and guidance to be finalized and give businesses adequate time to prepare for full compliance without compromising vital sectors of the economy, particularly media and information distribution.

We appreciate your attention to this urgent matter and your efforts to protect freedom of information and uphold democratic values in Europe.

Thank you for your consideration.

On behalf of

EMMA - European Magazine Media Association | www.magazinemedia.eu

ENPA - European Newspaper Publishers' Association | www.empa.eu

EPC - European Publishers Council | www.epceurope.eu

FEP – Federation of European Publishers | <https://fep-fee.eu/>

NME - News Media Europe | www.newsmediaeurope.eu

STM - International Association of Scientific, Technical & Medical Publishers | <https://stm-assoc.org/>