

**Amsterdam Declaration**

**“Towards Eliminating Deforestation  
from Agricultural Commodity Chains with  
European Countries”**

*by undersigned European countries*

**Denmark**

*Eva Kjer Hansen,  
Minister for the Environment and Food*

**France**

*Ségolène Royal,  
Minister of Environment, Energy and the Sea, In charge of International  
Climate Relations  
Barbara Pompili,  
Secretary of State in charge of Biodiversity*

**Germany**

*Gerd Müller,  
Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Germany  
Christian Schmidt,  
Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture*

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Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation*

**Norway**

*Vidar Helgesen,  
Minister for Climate and Environment*

**United Kingdom**

*Justine Greening,  
Secretary of State for International Development*

*Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 7 December 2015*

## PREAMBLE

### Global Goals on Sustainable Development

On 25 September 2015 the ***Sustainable Development Goals*** were adopted. Our ambition to eliminate deforestation from agricultural supply chains and promoting sustainable economic development is based on the Sustainable Development Goals and is also a contribution to an inter-sectoral and holistic agenda for poverty reduction (#1), food security and nutrition (#2), gender equality (#5), water and sanitation (#6), sustainable consumption and production (#12), climate action (#13) and halting land degradation and biodiversity loss (#15).

Responsible management of supply chains and sustainable trade are important cornerstones in reaching sustainable development, as through global value chains consuming and producing countries have a shared responsibility for sustainable business practices. Responsible business conduct, supportive governance and a strong civil society are important elements for achieving sustainable trade. We request national forest law enforcement, and strongly encourage the consequent application of internationally recognized labour, social and environmental standards and principles in global supply chains. More synergies between aid & trade will help to reach the Sustainable Development Goals and our goals on climate change. Policy options regarding the elimination of deforestation from agricultural commodity supply chains have been identified in the EC Report on Consumption and Deforestation (2013-065).

### “Eliminating deforestation”

Our objective to promote "eliminating deforestation" is a non-legally binding, political intention and supports the private-sector goal of zero net deforestation and, in particular, the commitments expressed in the New York Declaration on Forests, underlining the global importance to preserve primary forests and high conservation value areas a.o. through responsible supply chain management. The signatories therefore reiterate the ***New York Declaration on Forests's*** vision of joint actions by all stakeholders. In addition, we welcome the private sector goals for eliminating deforestation from global supply chains.

### In the context of climate change

The latest report by the ***Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC AR5)*** states: “total anthropogenic Green House Gas (GHG) emissions have continued to increase over 1970 to 2010 with larger absolute decadal increases toward the end of this period (high confidence)”. In 2010, 24% (12 GtCO<sub>2</sub>eq) of total net emission was associated to Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses – AFOLU - (IPCC AR5). Moreover, according to the FAO (2014) AFOLU emissions may still increase by up to 30% if the status quo remains unchanged.

*We support an ambitious global climate agreement to be reached at the UNFCCC-COP21. We reiterate the importance of continued action on reducing emissions by deforestation and forest degradation in order to reach the goal of not exceeding 2°C warming and the need to strengthen the role of forests in resilience to climate change, poverty reduction and resource security. We are convinced that only with joint action by the public and private sector to combat deforestation we will be able to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the targets of the New York Declaration on Forests and an agreement on climate change to be reached.*

## THE DECLARATION

***“Recognising the need to eliminate deforestation in relation to agricultural commodity trade with our countries, we - as European countries and as member states of the European Union - take note and declare ourselves supportive of the private-sector and public initiatives to halt deforestation by no later than 2020”***

### ***In support of this declaration:***

- 1. We reiterate our objectives to support and help meet the private sector goal of eliminating deforestation from the production of agricultural commodities such as beef and leather, palm oil, paper and pulp, soy and other commodities such as cocoa and rubber by no later than 2020, recognizing that many companies have even more ambitious targets as for example expressed in the ‘New York Declaration on Forests’.*
- 2. We encourage more companies to join initiatives to eliminate deforestation and step up their commitments to eliminate deforestation from their agricultural commodity supply chains.*
- 3. We invite companies involved in Europe-related global agricultural supply chains to implement the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and notably the forthcoming FAO-OECD Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains. This is in support of a European-wide implementation of corporate social responsibility reporting and enhancing transparency on the carbon and forest footprint of their supply chains.*
- 4. We invite and encourage other European countries and the Commission to join us in working with multi-stakeholder partnerships to eliminate deforestation from agricultural commodity supply chains, working coherently on supply chain instruments, landscape-scale approaches and climate change instruments.*
- 5. We invite the Commission to foster and enhance public-private partnership initiatives of member states by facilitating an annual dialogue with the private sector and industry associations and all other relevant stakeholders on progress, bottlenecks and opportunities in the public-private sphere towards achievement of eliminating deforestation from agricultural commodity chains.*
- 6. We welcome and encourage the EU trade policy ‘Trade for all’ which recognises the importance of responsible supply chains, fair trade, good governance, sustainable development, and working closely together with producer countries and development cooperation partner countries to take coherent action in support of sustainable growth objectives.*
- 7. We invite the Commission to include elimination of deforestation from agricultural commodity supply chains in current dialogues and agreements with producer countries. We will support the Commission in exploring options to integrate eliminating deforestation in relation to agricultural commodity trade in the Chapter on Trade and Sustainable Development in bilateral EU trade and investment agreements. In line with international commitments this is supportive of the aim of strengthening forest governance, transparency and the rule of law, while also empowering communities and taking into account the situation of indigenous peoples and local communities - especially those pertaining to their lands and resources -, and the rights of persons (especially women) belonging to these populations.*
- 8. We support the Commission in jointly assessing the policy options identified in ‘The impact of EU consumption on deforestation’ (EC Technical Report 2013-065). We would welcome an EC feasibility study and roadmap towards EU action (in line with EU Environment Action Programme, #1386/2013).*

# **The Amsterdam Declaration in Support of a Fully Sustainable Palm Oil Supply Chain by 2020**

*by undersigned European countries*

## **Denmark**

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Minister for the Environment and Food*

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## PREAMBLE

During the past decade, the global demand for vegetable oils has grown by more than 5% a year – and is expected to maintain this growth for the next 10 years. Palm oil is the most produced and traded vegetable oil in the world, accounting for 40% of all vegetable oils traded internationally. It is highly efficient in terms of yield per hectare, and global production of palm oil has doubled since 2000. It is highly versatile in its use and an important ingredient for food, feed, fuel and oleochemical products.

Growing demand puts pressure on land use, often at the expense of local communities, fragile ecosystems and tropical forests and, if not managed well, affects climate change in several and substantial ways. The palm oil sector is important to millions of farmers and their families and contributes to economic development.

As the world's largest economy, Europe has an opportunity and responsibility to move the global economy to a more sustainable path. Europe is the second largest global import market for palm oil and home to some of the world's biggest brands and companies. Europe can be an important 'game changer' when it comes to a sustainable palm oil supply chain for the world. This can only be achieved if all public and private stakeholders work together in a coherent way according to each role and responsibility. This includes industry parties, civil society and governments of producing and consuming countries.

We, the Signatories, reiterate the importance of the recently agreed Sustainable Development Goals calling for, among other things, sustainable production and consumption, and ensuring food security and nutrition, ending poverty, combating climate change, and halting biodiversity loss, land degradation and deforestation.

We, the Signatories, are encouraged by the European private sector organisations engaged in the palm oil supply chain joining forces in a commitment and drive towards 100% sustainable sourcing and trade and increased traceability of this commodity by no later than 2020, referred to here as the "Commitment" (see separate document: Commitment to Support 100% Sustainable Palm Oil in Europe), and therefore declare,

## THE DECLARATION

*As European countries and as member states of the European Union, we take note and declare ourselves supportive of the private sector-driven "Commitment to Support 100% Sustainable Palm Oil in Europe", as signed by European national sector organisations engaged with the palm oil supply chain at the Amsterdam Conference on the "EU and Global Value Chains".*

### **In support of this declaration**

1. We will promote the goal of a fully sustainable palm oil supply chain, as described in said "Commitment".
2. We encourage all stakeholders to support the improvement and further development of sustainability standards towards sustainable palm oil production.
3. We invite the European Commission to facilitate an annual dialogue with the national governments, especially the signatories, the members of the

- European Sustainable Palm Oil Advocacy Group, the national commitments on sustainable palm oil, key private sector actors and civil society on progress, bottlenecks and opportunities in the public-private sphere towards achievement of the “Commitment”.
4. We encourage European companies involved in the palm oil global supply chain to implement the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and notably the forthcoming FAO-OECD Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains.
  5. We invite the European Commission to keep us, the Signatories, informed about the outcome of this dialogue and progress towards achievement of the “Commitment”.
  6. We invite and encourage European companies and countries to align and engage with the “Commitment” and the national action plans for implementation in their home country, and to take all necessary internal measures towards a fully sustainable palm oil supply chain by 2020, in line with international applicable commitments and EU Directives.
  7. We will encourage engagement through development relations and dialogues on trade relations at European and signatory state level with major producing countries and major importing countries like India and China on strengthening responsible and sustainable production in the palm oil supply chain and shifting demand towards sustainable palm oil in the world market.
  8. We encourage civil society, private sector and governments to promote the monitoring of the implementation of the commitments.

We invite other EU member states as well as non-EU member states to join this declaration.