### **EU Legislation Opinion Poll**

Measuring opinions on proposed EU legislation for deforestation-linked products

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Project: 3977







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### **Background** EMBARGOED UNTIL MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022

- On 17 November 2021, the EU published a legislative proposal for a regulation on deforestation-free products. The regulation is meant to set mandatory due diligence rules for operators which place specific commodities on the EU markets that are associated with deforestation and forest degradation soy, beef, palm oil, wood, cocoa, and coffee and some derived products, such as leather, chocolate, and furniture.
- This regulation will provide a guarantee to EU citizens that the products they consume on the EU market do not contribute to global deforestation and forest degradation. This would also mean a reduction of at least 31.9 million metric tons of carbon emissions to the atmosphere every year due to EU consumption and production of the relevant commodities, which could be translated into economic savings of at least € 3.2 billion annually.
- Before placing these products on the EU market or exporting them from the EU, the proposed regulation would require operators and large traders to carry out comprehensive, effective, and continuous due diligence to prove that their products are not linked to deforestation or forest degradation, disclose information about their supply chains, and report on their measures to avoid deforestation. The legislative proposal is currently going through the ordinary legislative procedure and must be formally adopted by both the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union.
- This survey follows another omnibus survey conducted by YouGov in May June 2022 to understand consumer attitudes toward the EU Deforestation Free Law in Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain.





#### A ten-minute online survey conducted with 9,000 consumers across nine countries

- The survey was conducted between 10 July 2022 and 28 July 2022 using established online research panels.
- Nationally representative samples (online) of n=1,000 mainstream consumers per country.
- Quotas were set by age, region, gender, and education. The final sample is weighted to reflect the general population as per the latest available census data.
- Within the survey, some questions were focused on specific sectors, products, and ingredients impacting deforestation. To prevent fatigue, the sample was split so that each respondent was only asked about half of the product categories/sectors.

#### Notes on reporting:

- All figures in this report are given in percentages, unless otherwise stated. In charts, due to rounding of decimal places displayed, figures may not always add up to exactly 100%.
- Country-level characteristics can influence response styles such as acquiescence and extreme response styles. Hence, it is advised to also look at the results within each country and patterns in the rankings, rather than only comparing countries.

Country	Sample size ( <i>n</i> =)
Austria	n=1,000
Czech Republic	n=1,000
France	n=1,000
Italy	n=1,000
Portugal	n=1,000
Germany	n=1,000
Spain	n=1,000
Sweden	n=1,000
The Netherlands	<i>n</i> =1,000



# **Executive Summary**

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### Key Take-aways EMBARGOED UNTIL MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022

- Deforestation is the biggest environmental issue of concern across most EU countries, with eight in ten Europeans saying they are worried about the destruction and degradation of the world's forests.
- There's an important expectation perception gap to fill: Europeans expect large companies to be the most responsible actor in protecting forests but believe that businesses are currently performing the worst in preventing deforestation.
- A strong majority of Europeans think businesses should not be selling products which are harmful to the world's forests, yet they find it difficult to distinguish deforestation-free products when shopping. They therefore believe that it is the government's role to ban the products that have a negative impact on forests.
- As a result, Europeans strongly support a deforestation-free law that would require companies in the EU to stop selling products that destroy the world's forests (they do so at a much higher rate than they support other EU regulations generally). They see it as the way to stop companies sourcing from deforested land, to preserve species diversity, and to reduce GHG emissions.
- In the meantime, nearly three in four Europeans (73%) say they are ready to act against businesses that make or sell products which drive deforestation by stop buying from them altogether (37%), or by reducing how much they buy from them (36%). A smaller part of this group (15%) would go as far working to convince others they know to stop buying from them as well.

Because of the public's perception that large companies are failing in their responsibility to prevent deforestation, there is a strong appetite for regulation. For businesses, consumer trust and loyalty is also at stake. Businesses have more to gain by supporting this new regulation than opposing it.

### **Executive Summary (I) EMBARGOED UNTIL MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022**

- The destruction and degradation of the world's forests is the number one concern for the public among all environmental issues surveyed.
  - Eight in ten Europeans are concerned about deforestation. Women, people with high incomes, and people who live in cities are the most concerned about the destruction and degradation of the world's forests.
  - **Europeans primarily trust scientists** for providing information about deforestation, followed by documentaries and charities/NGOs. Other sources of information receive low levels of trust with business leaders at the bottom.
  - Europeans score very high on the following attitudes: supporting businesses not selling products which are harmful to the world's forests, finding it difficult to distinguish deforestation-free products in store, and believing that it is the government's role to ban the products with negative impact on forests.
- The public considers the institutions most responsible for protecting forests to be performing the worst. They think large companies are the lowest performing actor when it comes to preventing deforestation.
  - Nearly half of Europeans think that large companies are the most responsible for protecting the world's forests, particularly people with high incomes and those who live in rural areas. However, large companies are seen as performing the most poorly when it comes to preventing deforestation.
  - Together with international bodies like the UN, national governments, and the EU, large companies need to fill a perception expectation gap on deforestation, hence an opportunity to work together to support the new EU regulation.



### **Executive Summary (II) EMBARGOED UNTIL MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022**

- A vast majority of Europeans are willing to take action and move away from businesses which they believe contribute to deforestation.
  - More than seven in ten Europeans are ready to move away from businesses if they find out that a brand or a retailer sells or manufactures products/ingredients which contribute to deforestation, either by buying less or by no longer buying their products. A small minority (13%) is even ready to convince people they know to stop buying from these businesses.
  - The risk of losing customers because the brand or retailer contributes to deforestation is especially high in Spain and Italy, where nearly half would fully stop buying products from these companies.
- Europeans strongly support a Deforestation-free Law, and at a much higher rate than they support EU regulations generally. Eighty-one percent of Europeans support a Deforestation-free Law. This strong support is observed across all surveyed countries, voters of all the main political parties in Europe, and all age groups (with even stronger support among those 45+).
  - **Europeans also claim to strongly support strengthening parts of the Deforestation-free Law under debate**: Over eight in ten believe that it should require financial institutions to stop investing in companies that destroy the world's forests, require companies to stop selling products that violate the land rights of Indigenous peoples, and require companies to stop selling products that destroy other critical ecosystems and products that degrade the world's forests.
  - Their main reasons for supporting a Deforestation-free Law are to stop companies sourcing from deforested land, to protect biodiversity, and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



### Executive Summary (III) EMBARGOED UNTIL MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022

- The segmentation aims to visualize the difference in consumers' potential response to the Deforestation-free Law and the risk businesses could face if they do not proactively support this piece of legislation.
  - The segments are defined by specific attitudes and behaviours:
    - **Engaged Influencers** want to **convince people to stop buying** brands/products, or from retailers, contributing to deforestation. Although they expect large companies to be the most responsible actor to protect forests, they also believe that they (as individuals) have a role to play by putting pressure on them.
    - **Individual Boycotters** are willing to fully stop buying brands / from retailers contributing to deforestation. This segment has the **widest perception expectation gap** on the responsibility of large companies and holds large companies as responsible for changing their practices vs them changing their behavior.
    - **The Consumption Reducers** are willing to reduce their consumption of products with negative impact on forests to some extent. However, this attitude constantly conflicts with purchase decisions driven by price and quality.
    - **Non-engaged Law Supporters** support of the Deforestation-free Law passively, with no immediate impact on their consumption / choice of products. Their purchase decisions are mostly driven by price and quality.
    - Law Opposers generally don't trust governments or claims made by companies and believe that NGOs only care about deforestation to make money. They oppose the Deforestation-free Law. This segment is defined by a relatively low income and their purchase/retailers' decisions are mostly driven by low price.
  - The Engaged Influencers and the Individual Boycotters are the most prominent segments across the EU countries surveyed. Four in ten Europeans belong to these two segments.



Global Issues and Concerns about Deforestation

# In a Nutshell...

The public thinks that the state of the environment is the second most serious global issue, after peace and stability.

Deforestation is the biggest environmental issue of concern.

## Across the EU, the public believes that the state of the environment is the second most serious global issue, following peace and stability in the world

Most serious global issues, Rank 1–3, %, EU average and by country, 2022

									*		
	EU average		Austria	Czech Republic	France	Germany	Italy	Portugal	Spain	Sweden	Netherlands
Peace and stability in the world		67	73	75	60	72	63	66	59	63	70
State of environment	53		63	42	55	60	62	52	48	44	49
State of economy	50		44	52	55	40	59	47	66	42	44
State of healthcare	37		36	35	25	28	28	58	41	42	40
Crime / personal safety and security	28		26	29	35	23	21	25	17	46	28
COVID-19 pandemic	27		23	26	30	36	37	11	38	20	24
State of human rights	26		22	25	20	24	26	33	24	34	22
Relations between different racial/ethnic groups	10		11	12	14	12	4	7	6	8	16

Top 3 by country

Globe X Meridian

13 Q1. Which of the following global issues do you believe are the most serious today? (Total n=9,000; n=1,000 in each country)

## Deforestation - destruction and degradation of the world's forests – is seen as the biggest environmental issue across most EU countries

Concern about environmental issues, scores 4+5 on a 5-point scale, "Moderately concerned" + "Extremely concerned", %, EU average and by country, 2022

	-							盡		
	EU average	Austria	Czech Republic	France	Germany	Italy	Portugal	Spain	Sweden	Netherlands
Destruction and degradation of the world's forests	77	82	71	83	83	79	91	85	56	62
Water and air pollution	74	78	68	81	76	80	89	89	46	56
Water shortages	72	70	68	80	74	81	92	88	43	52
Global warming / climate change	72	77	57	79	78	82	89	83	50	57
Loss of wildlife species/biodiversity	70	74	60	78	73	71	87	83	50	54

Top 2 by country

X Meridian

14 Q2. Now, thinking about the state of the environment globally, please indicate how personally concerned, if at all, you are about each of the following issues. (Total *n*=9,000; *n*=1,000 in each country)

## Women, people with high incomes, and people who live in cities are the most concerned about the destruction and degradation of the world's forests

Concern about environmental issues, scores 4+5 on a 5-point scale, "Moderately concerned" + "Extremely concerned", %, EU average, 2022



Meridian

15 Q2. Now, thinking about the state of the environment globally, please indicate how personally concerned, if at all, you are about each of the following issues. (Total n=9,000)

Europeans are strongly in favor of banning products which are harmful to the world's forests. They find it difficult to distinguish deforestation-free products in store, and believe that it is the government's role to ban products that have a negative impact on forests

General attitudes, %, EU average, 2022

#### ■ Describes my opinion very well ■ 6 ■ 5 ■ 4 ■ 3 ■ 2 ■ Does not describe my opinion at all ■ Don't know / Prefer not to say Total 5+6+7

I think companies should not be selling products that are bad for the world's forests	45	22	15 7 31 <mark>2</mark> 5	82
It is frustratingly difficult to distinguish if a product is deforestation-free, or not, when shopping	39	24	19 7 31 <mark>2</mark> 6	82
I believe it is the government's role to ban products that are bad for the world's forests	39	22	18 8 4 2 <mark>3</mark> 6	78
Products that negatively impact the world's forests should be taxed at a higher rate	39	21	16 7 3 <mark>2</mark> 4 7	76
I would prefer to buy from a company known for its forest conservation efforts	37	24	18 8 31 <mark>2</mark> 6	80
Consumers can pressure companies to be more responsible by boycotting their products	35	23	19 8 4 2 <mark>2</mark> 6	77
I would be willing to support NGOs that work to protect the world's forests	25 21	21	10 5 3 5 9	68
I would be willing to pay more for products that are produced in a forest friendly way	22 22	22	12 6 4 7 6	66
I don't trust companies when they tell me a product is environmentally responsible	19 19	25	15 8 4 3 7	63
People I respect avoid buying products that are bad for world's forests	19 19	21 12	6 3 4 16	58
Environmental NGOs are making an issue about deforestation only to raise more money	16 14 18	12 10	8 10 12	48
Price and quality of a product is more important than its negative impact on world's forests	12 13 17	14 13	11 16 6	41

Q11. How well does each of the following statements describe your opinion? Please use a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 means "Does not describe my opinion at all" and 7 means "Describes my opinion very well." (Total n=9,000)



Europeans are strongly in favor of banning products which are harmful to the world's forests. They find it difficult to distinguish deforestation-free products in store, and believe that it is the government's role to ban products that have a negative impact on forests

General attitudes, %, EU average, 2022

Describes my opinion very well 6 5 4 3 2 Does not describe my opinion at all Don't know / Prefer not to say **Total 5+6+7** 

I think companies should not be selling products that are bad for the world's forests

It is frustratingly difficult to distinguish if a product is deforestation-free, or not, when shopping

I believe it is the government's role to ban products that are bad for the world's forests



Q11. How well does each of the following statements describe your opinion? Please use a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 means "Does not describe my opinion at all" and 7 means "Describes my opinion very well." (Total n=9,000)

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Expectations and Impressions of Actors on Deforestation



# In a Nutshell...

Large companies are seen as the most responsible actor for protecting forests.

However, the public thinks that they are performing the worst.

Together with international bodies like the UN, national governments, and the EU, large companies need to fill a perception – expectation gap on deforestation.

## Large companies are seen as the number one actor expected to protect the world's forests, followed by international bodies like the UN, national governments, and the EU

Actors most responsible for protecting the world's forests, %, EU average and by country, 2022

EU average								*		
EU av	LU average		Czech Republic	France	Germany	Italy	Portugal	Spain	Sweden	Netherlands
Large companies	46	50	47	41	46	45	44	46	48	45
International bodies like the United Nations	44	47	40	39	44	54	44	42	35	47
My national government	42	32	39	43	38	34	61	56	45	34
The European Union	39	43	36	33	36	44	41	50	31	39
Environmental non-government organizations and advocacy groups	30	27	34	35	23	40	33	29	25	27
Local and Indigenous communities	19	22	16	21	21	20	15	14	18	25
People like me	18	16	12	21	21	18	17	22	21	16

Top 3 by country

Globe X Meridian

20 Q4. There are many actors that could be held responsible for preventing deforestation. Which actors do you believe should have the most responsibility for protecting the world's forests? (Total n=9,000; n=1,000 in each country)

### People with high incomes and those who live in rural areas strongly believe that large companies are responsible for protecting the world's forests

#### Actors most responsible for protecting the world's forests, %, EU average and by country, 2022



EU average

#### Significant differences by demographics

People with high incomes (48%) and those who live in rural areas (51%) are significantly more likely to believe that large companies have the most responsibility for protecting the world's forests.

Men (46%) and people aged 55+ (50%) are significantly more likely than women or other age groups to believe that international bodies have the most responsibility.

People who live in cities (44%) are significantly more likely to believe that their national governments have the most responsibility compared to those who live in rural areas (39%).

Millennials are more likely than other generations to believe that the EU (46%) has the most responsibility for protecting the world's forests.



Women (33%) and people aged 55+ (35%) are most likely to believe that environmental NGOs and advocacy groups have the most responsibility.

Those aged 55+ mostly believe that local and Indigenous communities (26%) have the most responsibility.

Gen-Z (22%) is slightly more likely than other generations to think that it is their **responsibility** to protect the world's forests.

Q4. There are many actors that could be held responsible for preventing deforestation. Which actors do you believe should 21 have the most responsibility for protecting the world's forests? (Total n=9,000)



## But large companies are also perceived to be doing the worst job in preventing deforestation; the EU and national governments are also viewed negatively

#### Performance of actors on forest protection, %, EU average, 2022



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22 Q5. Now, we would like to get your impression of how well these actors are doing in protecting the world's forests / preventing deforestation today. (Total n=9,000)

### Large companies are almost always viewed as being the worst performing actor

Performance of actors on forest protection, Ranked by "Poor" + "Very poor" performance, 1+2 on a 5-point scale, %, EU average and by country, 2022

								*		
	EU average % "Poor" + "Very poor" performance		Czech Republic	France	Germany	Italy	Portugal	Spain	Sweden	Netherlands
Large companies	64	73	61	64	56	66	73	60	58	65
My national government	52	62	57	48	46	62	58	52	34	49
The European Union	47	61	53	47	44	56	48	40	33	46
International bodies like the United Nations	45	51	52	47	37	55	46	38	33	43
People like me	33	35	39	33	28	38	36	28	29	32
Local and Indigenous communities	26	28	36	22	24	30	23	19	22	31
Environmental non-government organizations and advocacy groups	21	23	33	21	18	22	21	17	18	20

Top 1 worst performing by country

Globe X Meridian

23 Q5. Now, we would like to get your impression of how well these actors are doing in protecting the world's forests / preventing deforestation today. (Total *n*=9,000; *n*=1,000 in each country)

## Actors perceived as being most responsible for protecting forests are also the ones that the public believes are performing poorly on preventing deforestation

Responsibility of actors

**Responsibility vs Perceived Performance of actors on forest protection**, %, EU average, 2022

#### **Key learnings**

- The public thinks that large companies have the most responsibility when it comes to protecting the world's forests, but also thinks that they themselves are the ones doing the least.
- A similar perception gap is recorded for international bodies like the UN, national governments, and the EU – hence an opportunity to work together to create and support a bold regulation protecting the world's forests.
- Europeans think that environmental NGOs and advocacy groups are performing the best in terms of protecting the world's forests, but do not believe that they are the most responsible for doing so.
- No actor is seen as a high performer / highly responsible.

Q4. There are many actors that could be held responsible for preventing deforestation. Which actors do you believe
should have the most responsibility for protecting the world's forests? Q5. Now, we would like to get your impression of how well these actors are doing in protecting the world's forests / preventing deforestation today. (Total *n*=9,000)



Perceived performance of actors (% "Good" + "Very good")

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Considerations toward **Businesses** and their Impact on Deforestation



# In a Nutshell...

Europeans think it is very important that brands and retailers ensure that products/ingredients do not cause deforestation.

Logging, industrial agriculture, and energy are the sectors perceived to have the greatest impact on deforestation. Furniture, palm oil, soy animal feed, and meat are the products seen to contribute the most to deforestation.

Contribution to deforestation leads to lower purchase intent or to losing customers for good.

## Logging, industrial agriculture, and the energy sector are perceived as having the biggest negative impact on deforestation

#### Concern about impact of sectors/industries on deforestation, %, EU average, 2022



Q6. For each of the following sectors/industries, how concerned, if at all, are you about the negative impact they might have on
deforestation? That is to say, how concerned are you about these sectors/industries contributing to the cutting down and
removal of the world's forests? (Total: *n* varies between *n*=4,870 and *n*=4,937 by sector due to random assignment of sectors)



## Concern about industrial agriculture in particular is unanimous across all of the European markets surveyed; large retailers in Germany are also pointed out

Concern about impact of sectors/industries on deforestation, 4+5 on a 5-point scale, "Moderately" + "Very concerned", %, EU average and by country, 2022

								*		
	EU average	Austria	Czech Republic	France	Germany	Italy	Portugal	Spain	Sweden	Netherlands
Logging	64	48	67	75	53	63	82	85	39	67
Industrial agriculture	62	72	57	73	67	60	67	75	40	51
Energy	61	65	54	72	63	60	69	77	39	50
Mining	52	47	64	65	46	54	66	65	30	32
Financial sector	49	52	40	61	50	44	61	64	33	34
Food/beverage	47	53	28	63	49	45	56	64	28	36
Large retail / supermarkets	47	47	33	65	54	44	54	58	34	33
Tourism/entertainment	46	54	35	61	49	42	53	63	25	33
Home furnishings	44	51	26	58	49	45	62	59	20	29
Apparel/fashion	43	47	28	55	48	38	54	58	27	32
Beauty/cosmetics / personal care	40	43	29	57	40	34	48	60	23	26

Top 3 by country

Q6. For each of the following sectors/industries, how concerned, if at all, are you about the negative impact they might have on deforestation? That is to say, how concerned are you about these sectors/industries contributing to the cutting down and removal of the world's forests? (Total: n varies between n=4,870 and n=4,937 by sector due to random assignment of sectors) For a large majority of Europeans, the manufacturing of furniture and palm oil are the biggest drivers of deforestation, followed by soy animal feed and meat (which are in line with the products the EU lawmakers agree on).

Perceived impact of products/ingredients on deforestation, 4+5+6 on a 6-point scale, "To a moderate extent" + "To a large extent" + "To a very large extent", %, EU average, 2022



**Note:** To ensure a better differentiation of the products and give the respondents several points of comparison when rating the impact on deforestation, some ingredients were purposely added to the list, although they do not have a direct impact on deforestation (e.g., vegetable oils, tea, bananas)

Q7. Now, to what extent is the production or manufacturing of the following products/ingredients contributing to
deforestation, in your view? (Total: *n* varies between *n*=4,448 and *n*=4,526 by product/ingredient due to random assignment of products/ingredients)



## On average, nearly seven in ten Europeans think it is important that brands and retailers ensure that all products/ingredients do not cause deforestation

Importance of ensuring products/ingredients do not cause deforestation, %, EU average, 2022



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**Note:** To ensure a better differentiation of the products and give the respondents several points of comparison when rating the impact on deforestation, some ingredients were purposely added to the list, although they do not have a direct impact on deforestation (e.g., vegetable oils, tea, bananas)

Q8. How important is it for you that brands and retailers ensure that these same products/ingredients are produced in a 30 way that does not cause deforestation (i.e., products/ingredients that are deforestation-free)? (Total: *n* varies between n=1,832 and n=3,472 by product/ingredient)

## Contribution to deforestation leads to lower purchase intent or losing customers, regardless of their income level or political involvement

Consumer behaviour toward products contributing to deforestation, %, EU average, by consumer profile, 2022

		Income level			Grocer	y shopping s	Engagement with political issues		
	EU average	Low	Medium	High	More than half online	Less than half online	In physical stores only	Engaged	Disengaged
I would continue buying from them	8	9	8	10	13	7	7	5	22
I would reduce how much I buy from them	36	33	37	37	39	38	31	35	33
I would stop buying from them	37	37	37	38	33	37	40	46	23
I would try to convince people I know to stop buying from them	15	15	15	14	13	16	15	19	9
Don't buy these products: Don't know:	6% 9%							1	op behaviour

Q9. If you were to find out that your preferred brand or retailer contributes to deforestation in producing the products/ ingredients we have invited you to rate earlier, what would you do? (Total n=9,000)

**Note**: Q9 is a single choice question, except for the answer 'Would try to convince people I know to stop buying', which could be selected with another code as it is not mutually exclusive.



## The risk of losing customers because of the brand's or retailer's contribution to deforestation is especially high in Spain, Italy, and Portugal – and strong across the EU

#### Consumer behaviour toward products contributing to deforestation, %, by country, 2022



Q9. If you were to find out that your preferred brand or retailer contributes to deforestation in producing the products/ 32 ingredients we have invited you to rate earlier, what would you do? (Total n=9,000; n=1,000 in each country)

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**Attitudes** toward new **EU Regulation on Deforestationfree Products** 



# In a Nutshell...

Europeans strongly support a Deforestation-free Law (at a higher rate than they support EU regulations in general).

Support is high across all age groups, and is almost universal among those aged 45+ (that is, a key consumers & voters group).

The public's main reasons to support a Deforestation-free Law are to stop companies sourcing from deforested land, to preserve species diversity, and to reduce GHG emissions.

## Europeans widely support a Deforestation-free Law (and to a much higher degree than other EU legislations are supported). Support for this law provides strong political capital

#### Level of support of a new EU regulation on deforestation-free products, %, EU average, 2022

#### Note: Each respondent saw the following introduction before answering this question:

The European Commission has proposed a new law to halt deforestation and minimize the European Union's impact on forests worldwide.

The proposed law will require companies that sell commodities linked to deforestation and forest degradation – such as soy, palm oil and beef products – to ensure they don't contribute to the destruction of the world's forests / are 'deforestation-free' before placing them on the European market or exporting them from the EU.



#### EU average

EU average

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Q14. Do you support or oppose a Deforestation-free Law that would require companies in the EU to stop selling products
that destroy the world's forests? D7. Thinking about EU legislations/regulations generally, to what extent would you say that you usually support them? (Total *n*=9,000)

### Europeans widely support a Deforestation-free Law across all the surveyed countries

#### Level of support of a new EU regulation on deforestation-free products, %, EU average, 2022

#### Note: Each respondent saw the following introduction before answering this question:

The European Commission has proposed a new law to halt deforestation and minimize the European Union's impact on forests worldwide.

The proposed law will require companies that sell commodities linked to deforestation and forest degradation – such as soy, palm oil and beef products – to ensure they don't contribute to the destruction of the world's forests / are 'deforestation-free' before placing them on the European market or exporting them from the EU.



36 Q14. Do you support or oppose a Deforestation-free Law that would require companies in the EU to stop selling products that destroy the world's forests? (Total n=9,000; n=1,000 in each country)


## Support is high across all age groups, and is slightly higher among those aged 45+

Support for a Deforestation-free Law, 3+4 ("Somewhat" + "Strongly support,") %, by age and by country, 2022

92 8586 8888 92 86<sub>84</sub> 87<sub>85</sub>86 908991 85<sup>89</sup> 86<sup>89</sup> 909090 81<sup>85</sup> 85 8183 82 75778076 80 7879 79 78 71 7274 7274 6566.70 6363<sup>68</sup>66 62 6767 Austria **Czech Republic** France Germany Italy Portugal Spain Sweden Netherlands

■ 25-34 ■ 35-44 ■ 45-54 ■ 55-64

65+

Q14. Do you support or oppose a Deforestation-free Law that would require companies in the EU to stop selling products 37 that destroy the world's forests? (Total n=9,000; n=1,000 in each country)

■ 18–24

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## Voters of all the main EU political parties strongly support a Deforestation-free Law

Support for a Deforestation-free Law, 3+4 ("Somewhat" + "Strongly support,") %, by country and voters of main political parties,\* 2022



 Political orientation
 Far-left
 Left-wing
 Centre-left
 Centre
 Centre-right
 Right-wing
 Far-right

 Q14. Do you support or oppose a Deforestation-free Law that would require companies in the EU to stop selling products
 Right-wing
 Far-right

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 that destroy the world's forests? (Total n=9,000; n=1,000 in each country)
 \* Top three political parties indicated
 X
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# Voters of all the main EU political parties strongly support a Deforestation-free Law, at a much higher rate than they support EU regulations in general

Support for a Deforestation-free Law, 3+4 ("Somewhat" + "Strongly support") and Support of EU legislations, 4+5 on a 5-point scale, "To a large extent" + "To a great extent", %, by country and voters of main political parties,\* 2022



Support EU regulations in general

Support the Deforestation-free Law

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Q14. Do you support or oppose a Deforestation-free Law that would require companies in the EU to stop selling products that destroy the world's forests? D7. Thinking about EU legislations/regulations generally, to what extent would you say that you usually support them? (Total n=9,000; n=1,000 in each country)

\* Top three political parties indicated – Please refer to the appendix for the full name and abbreviations of political parties

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## Europeans' main reasons for supporting a Deforestation-free Law are to stop companies sourcing from deforested land, to preserve species diversity, and to reduce GHG emissions

### Reasons for supporting a Deforestation-free Law, %, EU average and by country, 2022

								*		
<b>EU average</b> (n=7,248 respondents across 9 countries)		Austria	Czech Republic	France	Germany	Italy	Portugal	Spain	Sweden	Netherlands
To stop companies sourcing from deforested land	61	68	66	61	58	59	58	56	61	64
To preserve species diversity	56	54	51	61	57	44	63	61	61	50
To reduce the carbon dioxide / greenhouse gas emissions	55	51	53	47	50	58	64	58	49	60
To incentivize governments/regions to do the same	40	37	39	42	31	46	47	45	38	34
It is the right thing to do	38	38	55	35	39	48	33	34	35	32
To enhance trust in the products I purchase	26	28	21	27	29	31	20	25	30	25
To help me not to have to worry when I shop	18	20	12	22	23	11	13	18	16	24

Q15a. You said that you support a Deforestation-free Law that would require companies in the EU to stop selling products that destroy the world's forests. Please indicate the three main reasons that motivate you to support this EU regulation. (Total n=7,248; Austria *n*=831; Czech Republic *n*=662; France *n*=819; Germany *n*=767; Italy *n*=884; Portugal *n*=869; Spain *n*=859; Sweden *n*=746; The Netherlands *n*=810)

Top 3 reasons by country



### The main reasons given by the 11% who oppose the Deforestation-free Law are the potential increase of prices, that it will hurt the poor more than the rich, and it is a lot of effort for little results

#### Reasons for opposing the new EU regulation, %, EU average and by country, 2022

								*		
<b>EU average</b> (n=959 respondents across 9 countries)		Austria	Czech Republic	France	Germany	Italy	Portugal	Spain	Sweden	Netherlands
It will make products more expensive	44	44	53	38	39	36	51	48	33	53
A lot of effort for little results considering other regions do nothing	40	47	43	37	38	36	37	35	40	39
It will hurt the poorer people more than the richer ones	39	43	43	28	40	36	40	47	34	43
People should be able to make own choices	32	38	27	32	42	29	16	42	34	33
It should be a national law, not an EU regulation	30	28	29	19	30	22	32	30	44	32
It will make EU businesses complying with this regulation less competitive	28	24	25	30	33	37	25	21	30	24
It will not be respected by companies	26	24	32	24	20	25	34	28	23	22
l don't really understand this new EU regulation	23	23	26	30	19	30	18	14	26	19
It will create too much of a bureaucracy burden for businesses	23	25	17	28	32	25	22	24	17	24

Q15b. You said that you oppose a Deforestation-free Law that would require companies in the EU to stop selling products that destroy the world's forests. Please indicate the three main reasons for you to oppose this EU regulation. (Total n=959: Austria 41 n=90; Czech Republic n=202; France n=108; Germany n=122; Italy n=67; Portugal n=87; Spain n=74; Sweden n=118; The

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Top 3 reasons by country

Netherlands n=91)

# Information Sources on Deforestation



# In a Nutshell...

The public's main information sources on deforestation are news stories, documentaries, and newspaper/magazine articles.

They mostly trust scientists, documentaries, and charities/NGOs for providing information about deforestation. The other sources surveyed receive low levels of trust.

## The public heard information about forest issues and deforestation the most from news stories, followed by documentaries and newspaper or magazine articles



Main information sources on deforestation, %, EU average, 2022

Q16. From which of the following sources have you heard information about forest issues and deforestation the most in the last 12 months? (Total n=9,000)



# Europeans trust scientists the most for providing information about deforestation, followed by documentaries and charities/NGOs

Most trusted information sources on deforestation, %, EU average and by country, 2022

								*		
	EU average	Austria	Czech Republic	France	Germany	Italy	Portugal	Spain	Sweden	Netherlands
Scientists	58	57	55	52	52	64	67	62	58	52
Nature films and documentaries	48	57	50	51	48	46	57	34	52	40
Charities and NGOs	44	44	39	46	42	45	44	50	42	38
Press and media	26	21	19	27	25	26	36	29	24	22
National government of your country	18	10	11	19	18	20	20	20	24	22
Friends and family	16	17	21	20	18	13	11	20	14	11
Local government in your country	14	10	11	14	15	13	14	16	19	16
Governments in other countries	9	6	7	9	8	11	11	11	11	10
Celebrity spokespeople	6	7	4	6	9	7	4	7	5	5
Business leaders	6	7	4	6	8	5	3	9	5	4

Q17. Which of the following sources/organisations do you trust the most for providing information about deforestation? (Total n=9,000; n=1,000 in each country)

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Top 3 by country

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# Consumer Segmentation



# In a Nutshell...

Engaged Influencers and Individual Boycotters are willing to fully disengage from businesses if they do not see them taking action.

Four in ten Europeans belong to these two segments.

### **Consumer Segmentation**

Successful communication is the one that is well aligned with attitudes, needs and expectations of the specific target groups. To help describe the public's attitudes towards the Deforestation-free Law and potential behavioural responses, we have grouped all respondents into homogenous groups or segments. The segments were identified using reported customer behaviour towards products with negative impact on forests (q9) and their favourability towards the Law (q14).

This segmentation aims to visualize the difference in consumers potential response to the Deforestation-free Law and the risk businesses could face if they do not proactively support this piece of legislation.

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### Segments:

Engaged Influencers	Favourable towards the Law, ready to fully boycott products or brands with negative impact on forests and engage other people in the protest action
Individual Boycotters	Prepared to individually boycott the products or brands contributing to deforestation
Consumption Reducers	Predisposed to reducing their purchases of products or brands contributing to deforestation
Non-engaged Law Supporters	Support the Law in general, but unlikely to react behaviorally
Law Opposers	Oppose the Deforestation-free Law and generally don't trust claims made by companies, NGOs actions, etc.

### Engaged Influencers are skewed towards Female; Individual Boycotters are older; Nonengaged Law Supporters and Law Opposers are defined by a lower income

### Segments' Demographic Profile, %, EU average, 2022





## Segments' attitudes, shopping behaviours, and political engagement

### Segments' description, EU average, 2022

	Engaged Influencers	Individual Boycotters	Consumption Reducers	Non-engaged Law Supporters	Law Opposers
Description	Want to influence/convince people to stop buying brands / from retailers contributing to deforestation.	Willing to fully stop buying brands / from retailers contributing to deforestation. Hold large companies as responsible for changing their practices vs them changing their behavior	Willing to reduce their consumption of products with negative impact on forests, although price and quality remain main drivers	Passive support of the law, with no impact on their consumption / choice of products	Oppose the Deforestation- free Law
Attitudes (Most differentiating attitudes vs other segments)	<ul> <li>Ready to boycott and pressure companies if not acting responsibly</li> <li>Think that governments have a primary role to ban products impacting forests</li> <li>Willing to pay more for deforestation-free products</li> <li>Support taxes on products with negative impact</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Find it frustratingly difficult to distinguish if a product is deforestation-free or not</li> <li>Ready to boycott and pressure companies if not acting responsibly</li> <li>Willing to pay more for deforestation-free products</li> <li>Support taxes on products with negative impact</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Find it frustratingly difficult to distinguish if a product is deforestation- free or not</li> <li>Would prefer to buy from a company known for its forest conservation efforts</li> <li>Price and quality are more important</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Lack of trust in NGOs</li> <li>Find it frustratingly difficult to distinguish if a product is deforestation-free or not</li> <li>Price and quality are more important than impact on deforestation</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Price and quality are more important than impact on deforestation</li> <li>Don't trust companies saying that a product is environmentally responsible</li> <li>Lack of trust in NGOs</li> <li>Believe NGOs make an issue of deforestation only to raise money</li> </ul>
Shopping behaviour	<ul> <li>Main shopper</li> <li>Choice of retailer driven by quality, trust in retailer, and sustainability policy</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Main shopper</li> <li>Choice of retailer driven by quality of the products and trust of retailer</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Main shopper</li> <li>Choice of retailer driven by product quality and availability</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Main shopper</li> <li>Choice of retailer driven by low prices and convenience</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Share shopping decisions</li> <li>Choice of retailer driven by low prices, out of habit</li> </ul>
Political engagement and key priorities	<ul> <li>Highly engaged</li> <li>High support of EU legislations</li> <li>Priority: Improving natural environment, fighting rising prices</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Highly engaged</li> <li>High support of EU legislations</li> <li>Priority: Improving natural environment and fighting rising prices</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Highly engaged</li> <li>Priority: Improving natural environment and fighting rising prices</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Moderately engaged</li> <li>Priority: Improving natural environment and fighting rising prices</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Disengaged</li> <li>Low support of EU legislations</li> <li>Priority: Economic growth and fighting rising prices</li> </ul>

## The <u>Boycotters</u> and the <u>Consumption Reducers</u> are the most prominent segments across the EU countries surveyed

Segmentation breakdown within each country, %, by country, 2022

								<u>*</u>		
	EU average	Austria	Czech Republic	France	Germany	Italy	Portugal	Spain	Sweden	Netherlands
Engaged Influencers	13	17	9	15	13	13	15	16	15	8
Individual Boycotters	26	27	13	26	24	36	29	33	25	21
Consumption Reducers	28	29	27	26	25	32	34	25	23	29
Non-engaged Law Supporters	13	11	17	14	15	8	9	12	12	23
Law Opposers	19	17	34	18	23	12	13	14	25	19

Largest segment by country



# Appendix



### Large companies are almost always viewed as being the worst performing actor

Performance of actors on forest protection, 4+5 on a 5-point scale, "Good" + "Very good", %, EU average and by country, 2022

								*		
	EU average	Austria	Czech Republic	France	Germany	Italy	Portugal	Spain	Sweden	Netherlands
Environmental non-government organizations and advocacy groups	41	42	25	45	42	45	44	51	37	39
Local and Indigenous communities	35	32	23	41	31	36	41	47	37	27
People like me	28	28	22	31	29	30	28	36	25	23
International bodies like the United Nations	20	16	15	20	21	19	19	28	21	18
The European Union	18	11	14	20	19	18	18	27	21	14
My national government	16	11	10	20	18	15	14	21	22	13
Large companies	13	9	11	16	15	14	9	18	13	11
								Во	ottom 1 by a	country

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53 Q5. Now, we would like to get your impression of how well these actors are doing in protecting the world's forests / preventing deforestation today. (Total *n*=9,000; *n*=1,000 in each country)

# A majority of people are willing to take action in favour of an EU anti-deforestation law, particularly in Portugal, Italy, and Spain

Level of engagement with the EU anti-deforestation law, %, by country, 2022



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D5. If you were to receive an email/alert from an environmental group/NGO asking you to sign a petition or send a letter to a member of Parliament to ask for the EU anti-deforestation law to be adopted, how likely is it that you would do it? (Total n=9,000; n=1,000 in each country)

## **Voting preferences (1)**

### Voting preferences among the main political parties, %, by country, 2022

Austria		Czech Republic		France		Germany	
Sozialdemokratische Partei Österreichs (SPÖ)	20%	ANO 2011 (ANO)	25%	Rassemblement National (RN)	17%	Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD)	18%
Öctorroichische Vellesertei (ÖVD)	1 4 9/	Svoboda a prímá demokracie (SPD)	13%	La République En Marche! (LREM)	13%	Bündnis 90 / Die Grünen (GRÜNE)	17%
Österreichische Volkspartei (ÖVP)	14%	Obcanská demokratická strana (ODS)	<b>9%</b>			Christian Democratic Union of	
Die Grünen – Die Grüne Alternative (GRÜNE)	13%	Ceská pirátská strana (Piráti)	7%	La France Insoumise (LFI)	11%	Germany (CDU)	15%
Freiheitliche Partei Österreichs	130/	Starostové a nezávislí (STAN)		Europe Écologie Les Verts (EELV)	10%	Freie Demokratische Partei (FDP)	<b>9%</b>
(FPÖ)	13%	Krestanská a demokratická unie –	3%	Parti socialiste (PS)	9%	Alternative für Deutschland (AfD)	8%
NEOS – Das Neue Österreich und Liberales Forum (NEOS)	7%	Ceskoslovenská strana lidová (KDU-CSL)	3%		70/		
		TOP 09	3%	Les Républicains (LR)	7%	Die Linke (LINKE)	7%
Other	7%	Other	12%	Other	12%	Other	6%
Don't know / Prefer not to say	26%	Don't know / Prefer not to say	21%	Don't know / Prefer not to say	21%	Don't know / Prefer not to say	19%



## Voting preferences (2)

### Voting preferences among the main political parties, %, by country, 2022

Italy		Portugal		Spain		Sweden		The Netherlands	
Partito Democratico (PD)	21%	Partido Socialista (PS)	28%	Partido Socialista Obrero Español (PSOE)	23%	Sveriges Socialdemokratiska arbetarparti (S/SAP)	27%	Volkspartij voor Vrijheid en Democratie (VVD)	14%
Fratelli d'Italia (FdI)	14%	Partido Social Democrata (PPD/PSD)	13%	Partido Popular (PP)	21%	Sverigedemokraterna (SD)	17%	Partij voor de Vrijheid (PVV)	13%
Movimento 5 Stelle (M5S)	12%	Bloco de Esquerda (B.E.)	8%	Unidas Podemos (UP)	11%	Moderata samlingspartiet (M)	15%	Socialistische Partij (SP)	11%
League	6%	CHEGA (CH)	8%	Vox	9%	Vänsterpartiet (V)	10%	Democraten 66 (D66)	<b>9%</b>
Forza Italia (FI)	5%	Iniciativa Liberal (IL)	5%	Ciudadanos (Cs)	6%	Centerpartiet (C)	4%	Christen-Democratisch Appèl (CDA)	5%
Other	12%	Other	12%	Other	13%	Other	8%	Other	27%
Don't know / Prefer not to say	30%	Don't know / Prefer not to say	26%	Don't know / Prefer not to say	18%	Don't know / Prefer not to say	19%	Don't know / Prefer not to say	21%



# Generally speaking, the majority of Europeans support EU legislations at least to some extent

#### Support of EU legislations, %, by country, 2022



D7. Thinking about EU legislations/regulations generally, to what extent would you say that you usually support them?

57 (Total *n*=9,000; *n*=1,000 in each country)



# **Europeans also largely support the parts of the Deforestation-free Law currently under debate**

### Level of support for parts of the Deforestation-free Law, %, EU average, 2022

In addition to requiring companies in the EU to stop selling products that destroy the world's forests, the law should ...





# The vast majority thinks that the Deforestation-free Law should require companies to stop selling products that destroy other critical ecosystems

Level of support for parts of the Deforestation-free Law, %, by country, 2022

In addition to requiring companies in the EU to stop selling products that destroy the world's forests, the law should ... Require companies to stop selling products that destroy other critical ecosystems such as savannahs and wetlands as well as forests



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# The public supports the fact that the Deforestation-free Law should require companies to stop selling products that degrade the world's forests

Level of support of parts of the Deforestation-free Law, %, by country, 2022

In addition to requiring companies in the EU to stop selling products that destroy the world's forests, the law should ... **Require companies to stop selling products that degrade the world's forests.** 





# The public also thinks that the Deforestation-free Law should require financial institutions to stop investing in companies that destroy the world's forests

Level of support of parts of the Deforestation-free Law, %, by country, 2022

In addition to requiring companies in the EU to stop selling products that destroy the world's forests, the law should ... **Require financial institutions to stop investing in companies that destroy the world's forests** 





# Europeans believe that the Deforestation-free Law should require companies to stop selling products that violate the land rights of Indigenous peoples

Level of support of parts of the Deforestation-free Law, %, by country, 2022

In addition to requiring companies in the EU to stop selling products that destroy the world's forests, the law should ... <u>Require companies to stop selling products that violate the land rights of Indigenous peoples</u>





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