

Mr. Daniel Calleja Crespo
Director General
European Commission
Directorate-General for Environment
1049 Brussels
Belgium

11 September 2015

Reference: Non-Governmental Organizations` Forest Policy Priorities

Dear Mr. Calleja Crespo,

We would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Director General of DG Environment. We are writing to you as a network of NGOs working on forests and forest peoples' rights to emphasise the important work that your Directorate General undertakes on protecting forests.

Ensuring that forests are preserved to meet the need of future generations is one of the most important global environmental challenges of this century. As a signatory to the 2014 UN Declaration on Forests, the EU has committed to doing its part to end deforestation and respect the rights of indigenous peoples, drastically reduce forest degradation, and restore 350 million hectares of forests, while strengthening forest governance and empowering local communities.

More recently, in July 2015, the United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda – Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – agreed to set targets relating to future international development. This includes the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halting deforestation, restoring degraded forests and substantially increasing afforestation and reforestation globally by 2020.

To achieve this transformation is not only crucial to halting climate change but essential to ending biodiversity loss and protecting the lives of millions of people worldwide that depend on forest lands for their survival.

At this early stage in your mandate, we would like to highlight the most important forest-related items that should be addressed in DG Environment's work plan for the coming months and years, and **kindly request a meeting to discuss our expectations for Commission action:**

1. Developing measures to address the EU's global footprint, such as an **EU Action Plan on Deforestation and Forest Degradation** as foreseen in the **7th EU Environmental Action Programme** to tackle global deforestation and minimise the EU's impact.
2. Achieving effective implementation of the **EU Action Plan on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT)**, including through its evaluation, and the strengthening and tightening of FLEGT measures,
3. Strengthen the **EU Timber Regulation (EUTR)** by ensuring its full and proper implementation and the effective and uniform enforcement as well as the enlargement of the product scope to stop all illegal timber on the EU market.
4. Ensure that the EU's proposal on **Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)** does not undermine the EU's 2030 target to reduce emissions by at least 40 per cent, incentivises good land use management and ensures the EU's renewable energy policy introduces a cap on bioenergy use to levels that can be sustainably supplied.

We look forward to discussing and working with you on these issues.

Yours Sincerely,



Saskia Ozinga
Campaigns Coordinator
Fern



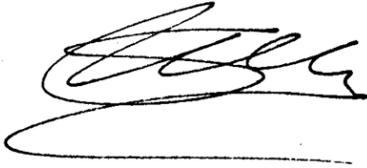
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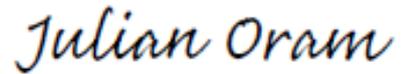
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