

ECF position paper
Towards a deforestation-free coffee production
(February 2019)

The European Coffee Federation (ECF) welcomes the initiative to step up EU action against tropical deforestation and forest degradation in order to reply to global deforestation and alleviate the incidence of agricultural commodities production on ecosystems. ECF advocates for thorough impact assessments and supports the objectives set out to better mainstream deforestation considerations throughout relevant EU policies, to promote collaboration and exchange of good practices, as well as building up on actions already carried out by governments and the private sector.

ECF is committed to preventing deforestation, aware of coffee consumption forecasts. We are dedicated to playing a strategic and proactive role in this regard and to support initiatives fostering sustainable development and protection of ecosystems and their services. We are strongly committed to contributing to the implementation of SDG 15 - Life on Land. We promote sustainable approaches throughout the coffee value chain to prevent loss of biodiversity and of natural resources. As tropical deforestation often results from the expansion of agriculture, we have adopted different approaches to halt biodiversity loss and land degradation from the coffee supply chain. Those approaches tend to respond to the increasing global demand for coffee, climate change and deforestation. They include mapping of the coffee supply chain through farm mapping in origin countries and traceability of the coffee beans.

Escalating agroforestry as well as crop diversification are identified as key drivers for better land management and reforestation in coffee producing countries. Over the years, the coffee sector has engaged in private projects, different certification schemes and industry-wide voluntary initiatives, such as Coffee & Climate or the Sustainable Coffee Challenge (SCC), which lists 15 different Forest Conservation commitments, including a collective target of sustainably renovating and rehabilitating 1 billion trees by sharing knowledge of renovation and rehabilitation to improve farmer yields and meet future demand for coffee.

ECF believes that an EU initiative against deforestation and forest degradation should promote an adequate framework that addresses the topic with all relevant stakeholders as a first step in supporting the coherence of existing commitments, initiatives and sharing of best practices.



It goes without mentioning that ECF and its members remain open and willing to engage on the topic in view of achieving a sustainable coffee production.

The European Coffee Federation (ECF) is the representative organisation for the European coffee trade and industry, speaking for over 700 companies ranging from SMEs to internationally operating companies, representing approximately 35% of the world coffee trade volume. ECF offers its members a forum for exchange, identifying industry-wide issues of common interest in the areas of food safety, sustainability and international trade.