

## DEFORESTATION

**SCIENTISTS WARN AGAINST WEAKENING DEFORESTATION REGULATION:** The new EU regulation aimed at preventing products driving deforestation from entering the EU market should have a stronger definition of what forest degradation entails, a group of 50 scientists [wrote](#) in a letter to MEPs. The wording of the definitions in the Commission’s proposal has been an important point of contention in discussions both within the Council of the EU and the Parliament.

**Scientists’ warning:** The group cautioned against removing any reference to forest degradation in the legislation (neither the Council’s nor the Parliament’s positions call for such a move). “Exclusion of degradation in the EU regulation would also gravely weaken the EU’s ability to argue for unified global action to protect forests,” they said, pointing out that in the EU forest degradation is “relatively more prevalent” than deforestation. According to them, “removing degradation from the regulation could therefore hinder the legislation from tackling forest loss on EU soil and create a perception that the EU is evading its own forest-related responsibilities — instead throwing the burden on to developing countries in the tropics.”