

- **European deforestation legislation**

The EU Deforestation Regulation, abbreviated as EUDR ([Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1115](#)) was published on 9 June 2023. The regulation imposes a ban on imports into and exports from the European Union of cocoa, chocolate, palm oil and soy that is sourced from areas that were deforested after 31 December 2020.

This legislation is set to take effect on 30 December 2024 (30 June 2025 for small companies).

The core of the regulation is a ban on placing the products concerned on the EU market or exporting them, unless the companies can prove that:

1. The products cannot be linked to deforestation or forest degradation, with 31/12/2020 as the cut-off date.
2. The products were produced in compliance with the local legislation of the country of origin.
3. The products come with a due diligence statement, which shows that the risk of deforestation is negligible. In practical terms, this involves three due diligence requirements:
 - Collecting and providing data and information that complies with the information requirements, specified in the regulation.
Example: full traceability with geolocation down to the production location (plot of land)
 - Conducting a risk analysis
 - Developing risk mitigation measures

The EU Commission published a [FAQ](#) and sets up an “Information System”, where the mandatory information, such as the provenance (geolocation) and the due diligence statement of the raw materials, are to be reported at the time of import and/or export of the said raw materials and finished products.

If you do not import these products yourself into the EU, your supplier (e.g. couverture chocolate manufacturer) will need to provide you with this information.

The EUDR brings radical changes for all chocolate industry players. This is why Choprabisco, working in tandem with Caobisco and Fevia, is closely monitoring developments in this respect. Members can always contact us for information about legal obligations and practical implementation.