

Meeting report

27th meeting of the “Multi-Stakeholder Platform on Protecting and Restoring the World’s Forests” With a focus on Deforestation and Forest Degradation

(24 April 2024)

1. Commission implementation updates

- **FAQs:** The update is taking more time than the EC thought. The EC is currently coordinating with Member States to provide answers. The next update will thus be expected in May (rather than end of March as previously announced). It will comprise at least 30 questions-answers, including on traceability for composite products, traceability for product in silos, elements for declaration in excess, issue of downstream operators exporting from EU, packaging made from relevant commodities, etc. It will also include a new section on the Information System.
- **Guidance:** the publication of the guidance document is foreseen by the end of first half of this year. The EC is coordinating with Member States for this exercise.
- **Information System** ([see attachment 2a EUDR Information System](#)):



Agenda

1. Pilot Test feedback

2. API

3. Training and User support

4. Roadmap until go live

5. Questions



EUDR system – Pilot Test

Main issues reported in the pilot test phase

- ❖ When possible, more precise errors will be displayed to guide the users
- ❖ An option has been introduced to not disclose geolocation information to downstream operators referencing the DDS
- ❖ Processing time will be improved in the final PRODUCTION environment
- ❖ A happy flow scenario can be accomplished with less than 10 clicks
- ❖ The full in-scope HS-code list will be available in the PRODUCTION environment
- ❖ A Supplementary Unit qualifier will be introduced where applicable
- ❖ Scientific Name will be mandatory only for commodities containing wood



EUDR system – Geolocation data

Geolocation data

- ❖ The industry standard GeoJson file format will be used to import geolocation data
- ❖ Coordinates must be provided in conformance to the WGS84 standard with EPSG:4326 projection system regardless of the input method (UI or API)
- ❖ Geolocation files are provided per commodity of the DDS
- ❖ A limit of geolocation data file size will be introduced (based on a maximum of coordinate pairs that a DDS can contain) and cannot exceed 25 MB per DDS
- ❖ The following additional properties can/must be added to the geolocation data:
 - ❖ Producer Country
 - ❖ Producer name, Production Place Name, Area for points in ha (optional)
- ❖ When geolocation data is large, the User Interface will not display them (impractical to display thousands of rows in a browser window)



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GeoJson Geocoordinates File sample structure

```
{ "type": "FeatureCollection", "features": [
  {
    "type": "Feature", "properties": {
      "PRODUCER_NAME": "Producer 1",
      "COUNTRY_CODE": "AR",
      "PRODUCTION_PLACE": "Farm 1",
      "AREA": 3.2,
      "geometry": { "type": "Point", "coordinates":
        [ -90.51272, 15.552415 ]
      },
    },
    {
      "type": "Feature", "properties": {
        "PRODUCER_NAME": "Producer 1",
        "COUNTRY_CODE": "AR",
        "PRODUCTION_PLACE": "Farm 2",
        "geometry": { "type": "Polygon", "coordinates":
          [ [ [ -90.514071, 15.552156 ], [ -90.514076, 15.552006 ], [ -90.513985, 15.551944 ], [ -90.513856, 15.551913 ],
            [ -90.513829, 15.552078 ], [ -90.513883, 15.552244 ], [ 90.514028, 15.552259 ], [ -90.514071, 15.552156 ] ] ] ]
        }
      }
    ]
  }
```

Mandatory



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EUDR system – DDS Geocoordinates view

6. Commodity(ies) or Product(s) *

+Add Commodity or Product X Remove All

Totals	Net Mass (kg)	Volume (m3)	Supplementary Units	Area (ha)
	50.00	0.00	0	3.20

1 05 PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN, NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED OR INCLUDED
0510 Ambergris, castoreum, civet and musk; cantharides; bile, whether or not dried; glands and other animal products used in the preparation of pharmaceutical products, fresh, chilled, frozen or otherwise provisionally preserved

Remove

Commodity(ies) or Product(s) Description *	Net Mass (kg) *	Volume (m3)	Supplementary Units	Total Area (ha)
Cantharides	50			3.20

Scientific Name
1 Cantharellales

Common Name
Cantharides

+ Add Production Place

Import Export

Producer Name	Producer Country *	Total Area (ha)
Producer 1	Argentina (AR)	3.20

#	Production Place Description	Area (ha) *	Type *	Actions
1	Farm 1	3.2	Point	X + -
2	Farm 2	0.08	Polygon	X + -



API for EO - High level specifications

List of supported operations:

1. **Submit a new DDS**
2. **Retrieve DDS information (Reference Number & Status)**
3. **Amend an existing DDS**
4. **Retract an existing DDS (Cancel or Withdraw)**



API for EO - high level specifications

1. Submit a new DDS

Call Parameters:

- ❖ Complete DDS dataset (Including Geolocation, and Upstream DDS references)
- ❖ Company Internal reference
- ❖ Company System Role

Call Result:

- ❖ If OK return UUID
- ❖ If Not OK return a list of errors



API for EO - high level specifications

Submit a new DDS – examples of errors

- ✓ 001 - You don't have the required role
- ✓ 002 - No right role to create that DDS of that activity
- ✓ 010 - Missing geolocation data
- ✓ 011 - Invalid referenced DDS number or token
- ✓ 012 - Invalid Operator information
- ✓ 013 - Missing Operator EORI
- ✓ 014 - Invalid country of activity
- ✓ 015 - Invalid country of Entry
- ✓ 016 - Invalid country of Exit
- ✓ 017 - Missing Quantity
- ✓ 018 - Missing NET mass



API for EO - high level specifications

2. Retrieve DDS number and status

Call Parameters:

- ❖ UUID received at submit time

Call Result:

- ❖ If OK return:
 - ✓ Reference number (if already assigned)
 - ✓ DDS status (SUBMITTED, AVAILABLE)
- ❖ If Not OK return a list of errors



API for EO - high level specifications

3. Amend an existing DDS

Call Parameters:

- ❖ UUID provided at submit time
- ❖ DDS data
- ❖ Company Internal reference

Call Result:

- ❖ If OK return OK
- ❖ If Not OK return a list of errors



API for EO - high level specifications

4. Retract (Cancel or Withdraw) an existing DDS

Call Parameters:

- ❖ UUID provided at submit time

Call Result:

- ❖ If OK return OK
- ❖ If Not OK return a list of errors



API for EO – Conformance testing

Strategy

- ❖ Publication of a set of segmented tasks of development and tests
 - ☐ Connectivity and Authentication Test
 - ☐ Test of Submission of DDS - Happy Flow
 - ☐ Test of Submission of DDS - Error Management
 - ☐ Test of Retrieval of DDS Information
 - ☐ Test of DDS Amendment
 - ☐ Test of DDS Retraction (Cancel and Withdraw)
- ❖ Once all tests passed, the EO will have clearance to connect to the PRODUCTION (once operational)
- ❖ Open-ended phase



API for EO – Webservices characteristics

Who can use the EO API webservices?

- ❖ One system per unique operator
- ❖ One public sector system for one or more operators
- ❖ One commercial software for one or more operators

How to authenticate?

- ❖ The credentials for each operator must be granted by EC ("web service user" based on EU Login credentials)
- ❖ At connection time, the remote system must login with the credentials of the operator
- ❖ If a system operates for many operators, it must manage the credentials of all of them for all the individual connections

What is the technology?

- ❖ Authentication over SOAP



EUDR system – User Support and Training

User Support

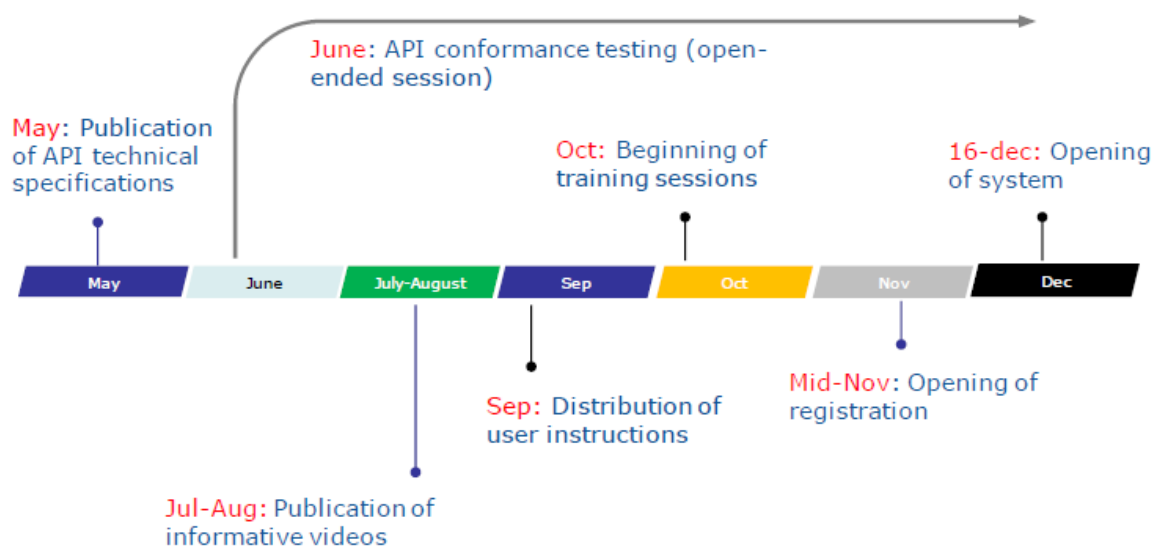
- TRACES support shall be contacted for IT related problems only
- User instructions and support materials will be published online, including short videos for each specific set of functionalities

User Training

- Hybrid hands-on end-user training will be provided in Brussels with online participation option
- Member States representatives will also be trained as trainers to be able to provide training at national level
- Training sessions estimated to be ½ day long



DDS Information System - Next steps



Comments:

- An option has been introduced when creating a DDS to allow or not allow the sharing of the geocoordinates with the next actors. This raised concern among participants; if geolocation data are not visible to the customer, how can he exercise his due diligence obligation? –
- The EC stated that the operator could choose whether to reveal geolocation information to actors further down the chain or not, as if he shares the reference to previous DDS, there is

no need to reintroduce the geolocation information. Nevertheless, the EC reiterates that there is a clear provision in the EUDR that all DD-related info needs to be shared (including references of previous DDS), and that this also must be done outside of the IS. This is discussed currently with Member states and the specificities will be addressed in the next FAQ.

- A DDS will be open for revisions for 72 hours. Nevertheless, the timing is limited to when the DDS was used for the related customer declaration.
- The EC does not plan to have a second testing phase, as the first pilot testing was to test a very rough structure of the system in place. They will not be doing the same type of testing as the EC considers it is not necessary. Nevertheless, there will be an API conformance (open-ended session) in June.
- GeoJson will be the standard format. In the API, the operator must provide a producing country and, in some cases, the operator must add the area, when the geolocation information is large (nevertheless, it cannot exceed 25 mb - if the data is too heavy, the approach would be to reduce the resolution of the polygon). Search will be normally done through the DDS reference number, not by geolocation coordinates.
- With regards to the area of a "point" in the geolocation, it will be an optional value. Operators can add this value if they see it useful, but it will not be compulsory.
- Technical specifications to develop API will be shared in May.
- There will be a second pilot test during the summer, but it will only be for the API.
- TRACES support will be available only for IT-related problems.
- Member States will be trained as trainers to provide training at national level.
- Operators would be able to start submitting DDS as of 16 December 2024.
- Member States can also join the IS API, and access the information, but for that the Member States will also need to develop their own system for the API.

Some participants have expressed concern that the IS would go beyond the provisions of the EUDR. Some competent authorities have asked for urgent detailed information on the information system, while others referred to the postponement of the application as requested by several stakeholders.

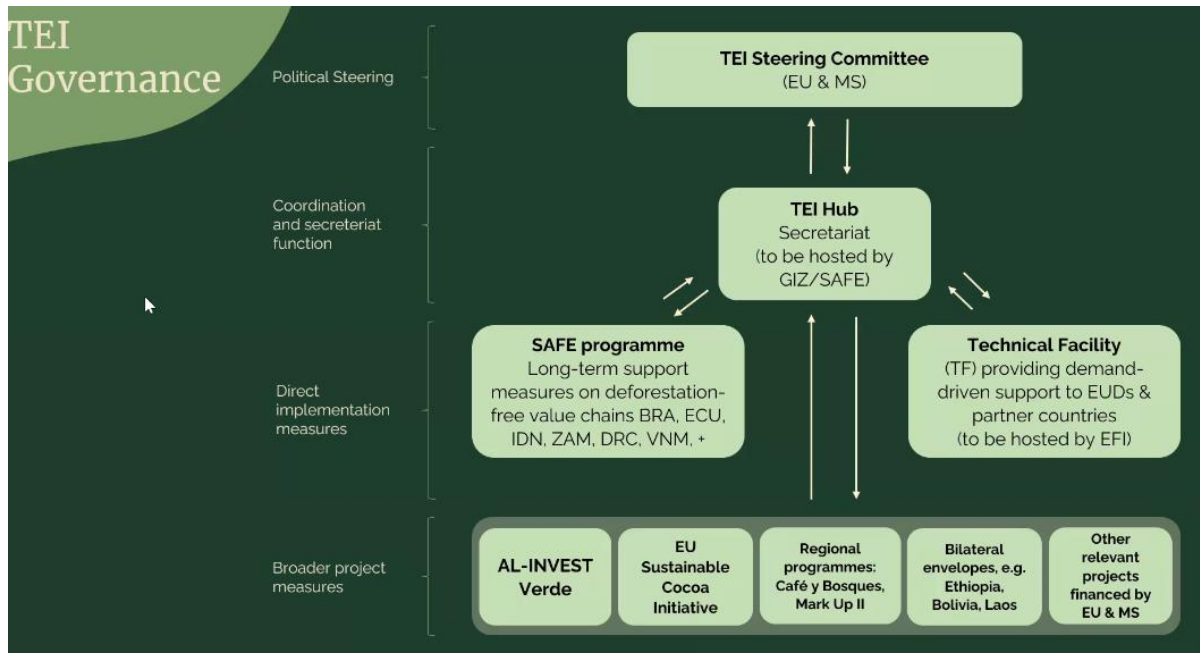
2. Team Europe Initiative



Structural elements of the TEI



TEI Governance



Presentation of the Coffee & Forest Program (see [attachment 2b INTPA presentation](#))



Global Gateway

Coffee&Forests Program.
The EU's regional commitment to zero deforestation in Central America

Kathrin Renner
Regional Cooperation Officer
Delegation of the UE to Costa Rica

The slide features a background image of hands holding a basket of coffee beans, with the European Union flag in the top right corner.

Situation in Central America.



General Situation.

- Central America is an important supplier of coffee to EU.
- Low traceability till farm and plot level, still long value chains. Better where farmers are organised, certified or for speciality coffee.
- Little standardisation of different datasets and of efforts of private sector.
- Big coffee producing countries can provide compliant coffee and can be more competitive than some Central American countries and areas. Hence risk for changing supply source.
- Relatively low consolidation and integration of coffee sector. Roasters further from field but responsible for information. Trust in information is key point.

High Diversity.

- Volumes of coffee to EU from Honduras = more than double of the sum of all the volume to EU from CA. % to EU : 60% Honduras (38% to 25% others).
- Honduras only about 40% of farmers organised—role of different levels of intermediaries. Panama, Guatemala and Costa Rica: more speciality coffee.
- Costa Rica has census of coffee farms, but not fully mapped geolocations of plots. Honduras has basis of information system in IH-Cafe but not completed and not adapted to EUDR.
- Legality of land use, coffee production is not clear or appropriate yet in all countries. Other countries in CA will face few problems only.
- Not all countries have a coffee institution.

Situation in Central America.



General Situation.

- Difficult and costly to detect agroforestry and deforestation by coffee.
- Low deforestation by coffee after cut-off point in CA.
- Coffee supply chain under threat of climate change, volatile markets, difficult access to labor (picking season).
- In general, almost absence of compensation to farmers for complying with externalities.
- Unclearities about role of public private stakeholders for some aspects of compliance with EUDR

High Diversity.

- Level of shaded coffee is different. Honduras dense agroforestry.
- E.g.: less than 50 plots per country.
- Attention, tests, investments for new varieties differs between the countries.
- Good experiences and systems in Costa Rica, starting in programmes in Honduras.

Regional Programme Coffee EUDR Compliance.



- Is a component of overall sustainable trade facilitation programme.
- 6 SIECA Countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.
- €5 mill. EUR (+ 0,5 mill. BMUV), starting early 2024.
- Implemented by GIZ. Facilitation role of Promecafé.
- Capacity development, coordinating, enabling dialogue and cooperation, not a pure 'investment programme'
- Complementary to other regional and national investment programmes.



4 Programme Components.



1. Information and policy dialogue (national, regional, global)—2 directions.
2. Facilitation of learning on diverse 'early actions' on land usage monitoring, traceability, standardisation and storage of data + legality.
3. Invest in digital public infrastructure and applications with the stakeholders.
4. Facilitate partnerships and initiatives to create incentives for farmers and to valorise the transparency and data for other income sources.

Indicative Key Activities.



- **Component 1.** Information and policy dialogue (national, regional, global)—2 directions:
 1. Develop an upgraded business model for **PROMECAFE** with the objective to close the existing gaps including adapted value propositions matching the expectations of member countries.
 2. Promote a qualified, results-oriented dialogue between **Central American positions with appropriate interlocutors on the European side.**
 3. Facilitate the development of proposals for **public policy reforms** involving key stakeholders of the private sector and civil society for **regional policy harmonization**, highlighting key areas of focus and necessary reforms.

Objectives of Learning Community



- **Component 2.** Facilitation of learning on diverse 'early actions' on land usage monitoring, traceability, standardisation and storage of data + legality:
 1. Learn on implementation of different approaches (operational-strategic) based on a diverse set of early action initiatives (around 20).
 2. Connect stakeholders for complementarities and impact and to increase trust.
 3. Interaction and communication externally with policy makers at all levels and with EU (both ways communication).
 4. Develop joint interests and priorities for joint 'trusted' data and digital public infrastructure.

Indicative Key Activities.



- **Component 3.** Invest in digital public infrastructure and applications with the stakeholders:
 1. Create a governance structure and a business model, including hosting, maintenance, code development, helpdesk for the open-source traceability system, with a focus on equal access (for men, women, all ethnicities) to the traceability system and related decision-making bodies.
 2. Evaluate and systematise experiences at different levels on digital traceability tools for deforestation free supply chains.

Indicative Key Activities.



- **Component 4.** Facilitate partnerships and initiatives to create incentives for farmers and to valorise the transparency and data for other income sources:
 1. Identify, analyse and document lessons learned and success factors of living income gap reduction strategies and approaches.
 2. Integrate deforestation free production aspects in existing public and private sector living income strategies.
 3. Establish best practices for mainstreaming the use of EUDR-relevant data into corporate credit evaluation, approval and reporting policies.

Approach.



1. Capacity development coffee institutions and/or with Promecafé.
2. Facilitation of a regional public-private learning community.
3. Facilitate and support early action initiatives of stakeholders.
4. Invest in joint 'trusted' data and digital public infrastructure.



Kathrin Renner presented the new programme to be implemented in Central America. At this stage, technical information cannot be provided. In a nutshell, this programme is part of a sustainable trade project. It aims at regional perspective and is based on integration, the reasoning being that the highest volume is produced in Honduras, but there is a varying level of organisation in the countries of the region. The main component is that trading coffee partners

communicate, exchange information, and promote the implementation of policies. The programme supports the establishment of regional public collaboration, in particular to address the issues of smallholders and to improve access to financial instruments.

Presentation by ITC: ITC MARKUP II programme ([see attachment 2b ITC presentation](#))

3. Smallholders

This agenda point only consisted in 5 presentations and a short Q&A for specific questions on those presentations.

Presentation by GIZ (also focus on coffee) ([see attachment 3a GIZ presentation](#))

Presentation by FONAP ([see attachment 3b FONAP presentation](#))

Presentation by Tree Map ([see attachment 3c Tree Map presentation](#))

Presentation Michelin ([see attachment 3d Michelin presentation](#))

Presentation by PEMPEM ([see attachment 3e PemPem presentation](#))

4. Legality and Traceability, experience of MS competent authorities (with EUTR)

Presentation by the Dutch Competent Authority

The Dutch Competent Authority presents 2 cases, one for which the operator did provide more information than for the other case. Nevertheless, considering the lack of documentation and the lack of relevant mitigation measures, the court followed the opinion of the CA that it was insufficient, and the operators were therefore fined. The representative stressed that certification schemes can help, although they should not be considered as a green lane for companies, which are expected to check every documentation.

In courts, in the Netherlands, companies have always claimed that it was difficult to do DD. Nevertheless, the courts have always deemed the EUTR clear in terms of requirements.

Presentation by the Czech Competent Authority

The Czech CA referred to inspections carried out in 2018-2019. They stressed that when the cases reached the court, the latter was always following the same decision as the one of the CA.

Presentation by the German Competent Authority

For cooperation, Germany is willing to share knowledge among MS and promote the exchange of good examples. Indeed, good examples on risk assessment and mitigations do exist, but they are as good as they are used. Often experience shows that some tools are well designed by the operators, but that they have not been implemented properly (often in the case of relevance of the mitigation measures compared to the risk those measures are supposed to mitigate).

5. Traceability

This agenda point only consisted in 4 presentations and a short Q&A for specific questions on those presentations.

Presentation of GPSNR: Experiences in the rubber sector ([see attachment 5a GPSNR presentation](#))

Link for the Operational Guidance and Legality Studies:
<https://sustainablenaturalrubber.org/news-publications/public-consultation-gpsnr-operational-guidance-for-eudr-in-the-natural-rubber-supply-chain/>

Presentation Aid Environment and Client Earth: Overview of traceability systems and good practices (*see attachment 5b AidEnv+ClientEarth presentation*)

Presentations by Grepalma and Anacafé: Experiences in Guatemala in the coffee and palm oil supply chains (*see attachments 5c GREPALMA presentation and 5c ANACAFE presentation*)

Comment:

- EUDR information translated in different languages (unofficial translations) are available on the EEAS website. For example, the information in Vietnamese is available here: https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eudr-documents-vietnam_en?s=184#86460

6. AOB

- Update on benchmarking: the EC stated that in practical terms, the implementation is not hindered by the fact that all the countries are considered as standard risk. The EC has started working on the benchmarking exercise, but it is a complex exercise, so they stressed they needed time. They also reiterated that they would enter into dialogue with each country that might be at risk of being classified as high-risk for the EUDR.
- Next meeting: now scheduled on 20 June 2024 (the May one is cancelled). Should there be any update beforehand, the EC will share it in writing.