

# Ministers undermine Brazil's climate leadership by pushing for EUDR delay

*Note from the Brazilian Climate Observatory (Observatório do Clima)*

The Brazilian civil society organizations represented at Observatório do Clima reject the request to postpone the entry into force and review of the European Union's deforestation regulation (EUDR), made in a letter signed by Brazilian ministers Mauro Vieira (Foreign Affairs) and Carlos Fávaro (Agriculture). While the whole country is in flames and with COP30 on the horizon, it is simply unacceptable that Brazilian government officials behave as spokespeople for part of an economic sector so heavily implicated in causing biodiversity loss and climate change to advocate for a delay of the EUDR enforcement, which will ultimately harm Brazilian agribusiness itself.

The same request for a swift implementation of the EUDR was made by 25 Brazilian organizations in a [letter](#) sent in May this year to the European Commission. Several case studies highlight that commodity producers are already actively complying with the EUDR requirements. The application of the new regulation does not create unachievable technical challenges, but instead builds on already established transparency frameworks. Companies are therefore not starting from scratch, but rather building on existing operational solutions.

It is surprising that the ministers directly contradict Brazil's international commitments and the President of the Republic in their letter, by referring to “zero illegal deforestation”. In several statements, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has promised “zero deforestation” – legal and illegal – in line with the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration and the UAE Consensus, which pledge to “halting and reversing” forest loss by 2030, a goal for which the EUDR competes.

Contrary to what the missive suggests, Brazil is fully capable of benefiting from this legislation, which merely implements something that Brazil has already committed to - in a sovereign way, by recognizing that deforestation is bad for the country, and that we have enough already degraded land to multiply agricultural production with more technology, productivity and added value, without the need for any deforestation or conversion.

Brazil is a pioneer in monitoring tropical ecosystems (done regularly by INPE since 1988) and in public and private traceability initiatives for agricultural supply chains (successfully done by the soy sector in the Amazon since 2006). An important point to consider is that only 3% of the properties registered in the Environmental Rural Registry had any deforestation between 2019 and 2022 (MapBiomass, 2022). Therefore, almost all landowners in Brazil have nothing to lose from the EUDR - on the contrary, they have a market to gain over international competitors who deforest. Opposing regulation, as the Lula government seems to be doing, means protecting a minority of non-compliant producers to the detriment of virtually everyone else - something that would have been expected under the past government, but not under the current one.

Nor is it up to the ministers to argue that Brazilian sovereignty has been violated when the EUDR is a legislation that exclusively applies within the boundaries of the EU, to companies that produce or market products within the EU. In this sense, consumer markets have a role to play and must prevent demand for products linked to the deforestation of tropical forests.

We, the representatives of civil society and traditional populations in Brazil, do not feel represented by the Brazilian ministers' request.

The EUDR offers Brazil an unmissable opportunity to make decisive progress in the fight against the destruction of its ecosystems, water resources, and territories of traditional populations, establishing itself by COP30 in Belém as a global leader of a new sustainable, plural, and inclusive global economy.