



# EPOA advocates regulatory measures to get to 100% sustainable deforestation-free palm oil in Europe

## The European palm oil industry presents position paper to ensure sustainable deforestation-free palm oil import and consumption in Europe

Zoetermeer, The Netherlands, 11 May 2020: Today, the European alliance of palm oil refiners and producers, united in the European Palm Oil Alliance (EPOA), released a **position paper** in which the industry exposes its high and serious ambition to make deforestation-free sustainable palm oil the norm in Europe. To reach this goal, EPOA welcomes EU-wide regulatory measures.

EPOA chair Frans Claassen states: “We can only make sustainable deforestation-free palm oil the norm in Europe if we introduce regulatory measures like a due diligence obligation for companies that place palm oil products on the EU market. These measures should create a level playing field for all vegetable oils and players involved.”

EPOA believes that regulatory measures should be introduced in a positive manner to promote sustainable production and trade and not being used as an instrument of protectionism. EPOA stresses also the need to emphasize in all communication the important role of sustainable palm oil in implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Over the past years, EPOA members have made serious efforts to make the palm oil sector more sustainable and have called upon food producers and retailers to increase their uptake of sustainably produced palm oil. In 2018 already 83% of the palm oil imported for food in Europe by European refiners was certified sustainable palm oil. But we also saw that only an estimated 60% of the physical palm oil used by the European food industry and retail was RSPO certified.

EPOA believes the European Commission should build upon the success of the industry initiatives. EU-wide regulatory measures are necessary to create a sustainable deforestation-free palm oil market. However, a due diligence system will only be effective if it is coupled with a wider EU strategy that creates the enabling environment required to make progress on sustainability in the palm oil producing countries as well.

As such, we need to remember that a fully sustainable deforestation-free global palm oil production can only be achieved if good governance (adequate laws, regulations and enforcement) is realized in the (palm oil) producing countries and producers (especially the smallholders) are supported to make the changes needed. Governments, industry and NGOs, as well as financial institutions play a crucial role by constructively supporting the

### European Palm Oil Alliance (EPOA)

Louis Braillelaan 80  
2719 EK Zoetermeer  
The Netherlands

[www.palmoilalliance.eu](http://www.palmoilalliance.eu)  
[info@palmoilalliance.eu](mailto:info@palmoilalliance.eu)  
+31 79 363 43 73

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producing countries and (smallholder) producers in their sustainable deforestation-free palm oil developments.

EPOA released its position in response to the European Commission's communication, 'Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests' and is looking forward to be involved in constructive discussions with the European Commission, politicians and stakeholders on how to develop and implement effective regulatory measures.

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### NOTE FOR EDITORS:

**The European Palm Oil Alliance (EPOA)** is an alliance of companies and organisations and is committed to the use of 100% sustainable palm oil in Europe. EPOA communicates about the role of palm oil in food, based on objective and scientifically substantiated facts. EPOA facilitates and supports organisations for sustainable palm oil in various European countries and cooperates with governments, industry, NGOs, and other civil society organisations. See [www.palmoilalliance.eu](http://www.palmoilalliance.eu).

**For further information you can contact:**

Frans Claassen, +31 6 13 23 08 74, [claassen@palmoilalliance.eu](mailto:claassen@palmoilalliance.eu).

**European Palm Oil Alliance (EPOA)**

Louis Braillelaan 80  
2719 EK Zoetermeer  
The Netherlands

[www.palmoilalliance.eu](http://www.palmoilalliance.eu)  
[info@palmoilalliance.eu](mailto:info@palmoilalliance.eu)  
+31 79 363 43 73