

The Amsterdam Declaration in Support of a Fully Sustainable Palm Oil Supply Chain by 2020

by undersigned European countries

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PREAMBLE

During the past decade, the global demand for vegetable oils has grown by more than 5% a year – and is expected to maintain this growth for the next 10 years. Palm oil is the most produced and traded vegetable oil in the world, accounting for 40% of all vegetable oils traded internationally. It is highly efficient in terms of yield per hectare, and global production of palm oil has doubled since 2000. It is highly versatile in its use and an important ingredient for food, feed, fuel and oleochemical products.

Growing demand puts pressure on land use, often at the expense of local communities, fragile ecosystems and tropical forests and, if not managed well, affects climate change in several and substantial ways. The palm oil sector is important to millions of farmers and their families and contributes to economic development.

As the world's largest economy, Europe has an opportunity and responsibility to move the global economy to a more sustainable path. Europe is the second largest global import market for palm oil and home to some of the world's biggest brands and companies. Europe can be an important 'game changer' when it comes to a sustainable palm oil supply chain for the world. This can only be achieved if all public and private stakeholders work together in a coherent way according to each role and responsibility. This includes industry parties, civil society and governments of producing and consuming countries.

We, the Signatories, reiterate the importance of the recently agreed Sustainable Development Goals calling for, among other things, sustainable production and consumption, and ensuring food security and nutrition, ending poverty, combating climate change, and halting biodiversity loss, land degradation and deforestation.

We, the Signatories, are encouraged by the European private sector organisations engaged in the palm oil supply chain joining forces in a commitment and drive towards 100% sustainable sourcing and trade and increased traceability of this commodity by no later than 2020, referred to here as the "Commitment" (see separate document: Commitment to Support 100% Sustainable Palm Oil in Europe), and therefore declare,

THE DECLARATION

As European countries and as member states of the European Union, we take note and declare ourselves supportive of the private sector-driven "Commitment to Support 100% Sustainable Palm Oil in Europe", as signed by European national sector organisations engaged with the palm oil supply chain at the Amsterdam Conference on the "EU and Global Value Chains".

In support of this declaration

1. We will promote the goal of a fully sustainable palm oil supply chain, as described in said "Commitment".
2. We encourage all stakeholders to support the improvement and further development of sustainability standards towards sustainable palm oil production.
3. We invite the European Commission to facilitate an annual dialogue with the national governments, especially the signatories, the members of the

- European Sustainable Palm Oil Advocacy Group, the national commitments on sustainable palm oil, key private sector actors and civil society on progress, bottlenecks and opportunities in the public-private sphere towards achievement of the “Commitment”.
4. We encourage European companies involved in the palm oil global supply chain to implement the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and notably the forthcoming FAO-OECD Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains.
 5. We invite the European Commission to keep us, the Signatories, informed about the outcome of this dialogue and progress towards achievement of the “Commitment”.
 6. We invite and encourage European companies and countries to align and engage with the “Commitment” and the national action plans for implementation in their home country, and to take all necessary internal measures towards a fully sustainable palm oil supply chain by 2020, in line with international applicable commitments and EU Directives.
 7. We will encourage engagement through development relations and dialogues on trade relations at European and signatory state level with major producing countries and major importing countries like India and China on strengthening responsible and sustainable production in the palm oil supply chain and shifting demand towards sustainable palm oil in the world market.
 8. We encourage civil society, private sector and governments to promote the monitoring of the implementation of the commitments.

We invite other EU member states as well as non-EU member states to join this declaration.