

Latest Developments

On Wednesday 2nd October 2024, the European Commission published a Press Release that confirmed the proposal for a 12 month extension to implementation of the Regulation. This is a proposal that has not been approved yet, but it is encouraging to see that the Commission recognises the challenges of implementation given that tools are still not available for the affected commodity stakeholders, and there are still unanswered questions. If the postponement of implementation is accepted it will change the key dates to:

- 31st December 2025 for large and medium companies
- 30th June 2026 for small and micro companies

While this is a welcome development, we encourage continued development towards meeting the Regulation and further developments will be communicated.

Take Action to Prepare:

Talk with your suppliers to understand what level of traceability and evidence provision already exists:

- Slaughterhouse
- Region of slaughterhouses
- Indirect Farm
- Birth Farm
- Establish origin countries as a minimum criteria and use a country risk index to assign the level of due diligence you may be required to demonstrate. Good resources are:
<https://forest-observatory.ec.europa.eu/forest>
<https://www.globalforestwatch.org/dashboards/global/>
- Discuss with your suppliers what steps are already in place for EUDR if required
- Create an action plan based on the outcomes of the supply chain map information
- Begin to link your farm origins with polygons of geo-coordinates if you import or export in-scope material.



Useful Links

[European Union Deforestation Regulation Overview](#)

[EUDR Implementation](#)

[EUDR Traceability and Geolocation](#)

[EUDR Information System](#)

[EUDR FAQs](#)

You can find more information in the Toolbox of the Partner Resources area of the SLF website here:

[SLF Toolbox](#)

Impact Study on EUDR



A study conducted by Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies of the University of Pisa, Italy has researched the impact of the EUDR on the leather industry and the environment. The study outlines these key findings:

Key Findings:

- **No Direct Link to Deforestation:** The study, supported by an extensive technical analysis (94 million+ records, 29,200+ active serial titles, and 330,000+ books) and 28 stakeholder interviews, found no direct link between leather and deforestation. Leather is derived from cattle raised primarily for meat and dairy, and its production does not incentivise cattle farming.
- **Severe Economic Impact:** The EUDR's stringent traceability requirements could severely disrupt the European cattle & hide supply chain, leaving European tanners without needed raw materials. This could force businesses to close and result in significant job losses across the industry's supply chain.
- **Environmental Risks of Alternatives:** The study warns that short-circuiting the European leather industry and replacing leather with synthetic alternatives like polyurethane leather-like materials (PU LLM) could increase environmental damage, in terms of higher emissions and resource use. Diverting cattle hides to landfills or to countries with weaker environmental standards would undermine the Green Deal's goals.

"The inclusion of leather in the EUDR would not deliver the expected environmental benefits. Instead, it risks causing a supply shock and shifting production to regions with lower environmental standards," stated Gustavo Gonzalez-Quijano, Secretary General of COTANCE.

The study was commissioned by COTANCE and the Italian Tanners Association, UNIC and you can read the full and summary versions by clicking below:

Socio Economic and Environmental Analysis of the Effect of the EUDR on the leather Industry

[Full Report](#)

Socio Economic and Environmental Analysis of the Effect of the EUDR on the leather Industry

[Summary Report](#)