



## **Sustainable Leather Foundation's Statement for the public feedback on the simplification proposal of the EUDR**

8<sup>th</sup> May 2026

On behalf of the leather industry stakeholders and partner members of the Sustainable Leather Foundation, we strongly support the Commission's proposal to remove hides, skins, and leather from the scope of the EUDR.

The leather industry remains fully committed to supporting global efforts to halt deforestation and continues to work proactively to strengthen robust, ethical, and sustainable value chains through improved transparency, traceability, and responsible sourcing practices.

We believe this proposal appropriately refocuses regulatory responsibility toward meat packers and processors, who maintain the most direct commercial relationships with, and influence over, farms and ranches that may contribute to deforestation risk.

Furthermore, we consider the removal of hides, skins, and leather from the scope of the regulation to be an important measure in mitigating the unintended risks of carbon leakage and environmental displacement. There is significant concern that overly burdensome or misaligned regulatory requirements could encourage the relocation of leather production to regions with lower environmental and social protections. Such an outcome could inadvertently increase broader environmental impacts, including water pollution, unsustainable natural resource use, and harmful emissions, while also weakening social and labour safeguards. At the same time, no corresponding reduction in deforestation would occur, thereby increasing overall environmental harm. In addition, the loss of industrial activity and related economic value within Europe could result in further negative social impacts.

For these reasons, we believe the Commission's proposal to remove hides, skins, and leather from the scope of the EUDR represents the most effective approach to avoiding these unintended negative consequences.

The Sustainable Leather Foundation and its partners remain committed to constructive engagement with policymakers and stakeholders in support of practical, science-based, and proportionate approaches that advance both environmental protection and sustainable industrial development.