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COVER NOTE

From: Secretary-General of the European Commission,
signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director

date of receipt: 23 July 2019

To: Mr Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN, Secretary-General of the Council of
the European Union

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Subject: ANNEX to the COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE
REGIONS: Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's
Forests

Delegations will find attached document COM(2019) 352 ANNEX 2.

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ANNEX 2

ANNEX

to the

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**

Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests

{SWD(2019) 307 final}

ANNEX II

Actions recommended to Member States' authorities, industry and civil society

Member States' authorities are encouraged to:

- Develop and implement national strategies and action plans on deforestation and forest degradation, including:
 - o awareness campaigns and engagement with relevant businesses;
 - o voluntary commitments to support the Communication's objective, in particular as regards reducing EU demand for products from supply chains associated with deforestation and forest degradation;
 - o actions to promote supply chains transparency.
- Support partner countries in:
 - o improving relevant policy and regulatory frameworks;
 - o improving innovative financing instruments such as green bonds;
 - o improving payments for ecosystem services schemes;
 - o encouraging their national banking sectors to support investments in sustainable agriculture, forestry and infrastructure.
- In the framework of development cooperation:
 - o ensure that financial contributions do not contribute to deforestation and forest degradation;
 - o scale up support provided to sustainable agriculture, agroforestry, agro-ecology, and other climate-resilient/ecological farming, including to smallholders to ensure sustainable agricultural and forest value chains;
 - o support management of protected forest areas, sustainable forest management and efforts to restore degraded forests, including afforestation and reforestation;
 - o support the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and the improvement of land governance and law enforcement.
- Continue to actively engage with other countries and key stakeholders in the multilateral context, e.g. in multilateral environmental agreements, policy processes and fora such as UN agencies and committees, to support the adoption and implementation of strong commitments and provisions halting deforestation and forest degradation.
- Further strengthen the inclusion of provisions on sustainable value chains in trade agreements, with a particular focus on deforestation, in the context of OECD and other relevant fora.
- Contribute to research and innovation related to halting deforestation and forest degradation through national and EU funding programmes.
- Support international and bilateral cooperation and collaboration with relevant research institutions and organisations working on deforestation and forest degradation.

Industry is encouraged to:

- Make voluntary commitments in support of the communication's objective, in particular as regards reducing use of products from supply chains associated with deforestation and forest degradation and promoting supply chain transparency.
- Integrate deforestation considerations into their corporate social responsibility/responsible business conduct actions.
- Support progress towards sustainable land-use practices and reducing pressure on forests.
- Support investments in sustainable management of forests, restoration and reforestation of degraded forest landscapes and ecosystems.
- Step-up efforts to empower and protect the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including land and forest tenure rights and labour rights.
- Actively commit to and implement integrated, cross-border actions halting deforestation and forest degradation.
- Increase cooperation and partnerships with international commodity bodies, and relevant initiatives and key stakeholders to tackle deforestation and forest degradation.
- Ensure that investments do not contribute to deforestation and forest degradation and increase transparency.
- Increase support to research and innovation in areas that are directly relevant to fulfilling the Communication's objectives and scale up the use of monitoring and traceability tools throughout the supply chain.

Civil society is encouraged to:

- Mobilise its networks to raise awareness about deforestation and forest degradation and promote the objectives of this Communication.
- Support the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including land and forest tenure rights, by supporting dedicated facilities, civil society organisations, human and land right defenders and participatory processes, as well as by providing expertise and sharing best practices.
- Play an active role in integrated, cross-border actions halting deforestation and forest degradation.
- Continue raising awareness of deforestation and forest degradation issues throughout all relevant international fora.
- Contribute to increasing investment-related transparency.
- Contribute to the traceability and transparency of supply chains.