



5 December 2022

### **OPEN LETTER TO EUROPEAN UNION LEADERS:**

The world is counting on you to help end global deforestation.

We call on European Union leaders to adopt a strong and ambitious new law to protect the world's remaining forests and respect the rights of the Indigenous and local communities who defend them.

Nothing short of a bold and ambitious new EU law will help us in the race to avoid irreversible climate change and safeguard irreplaceable biodiversity.

This game-changing law can break the link between food production and deforestation, and trigger a global transition to ways of farming and forestry that don't harm people and nature.

While the European Parliament recently voted resoundingly in favour of this law — it isn't final yet. EU countries and their leaders need to support it. We urge EU leaders to seize this opportunity for action.

This law matters deeply to all of us. Forests are crucial for the planet and one of our best solutions to climate change, and Indigenous Peoples their best protectors. We've watched in disbelief for years as a soccer field-sized parcel of forest is destroyed every two seconds. Almost all this destruction is to produce just a handful of products in massive amounts: cattle, cocoa, coffee, maize, palm oil, soy, rubber, and wood. All of which can be produced in ways that don't harm our forests or the Indigenous and local communities that live in and defend them.

Without rules requiring companies to pinpoint where their products originate or to check how they're produced, companies can avoid accountability for the damage their products cause.

Our supermarkets are filled with products linked to deforestation, yet the vast majority of consumers don't want to contribute to deforestation or human rights abuses when buying their groceries.

We can't continue with "business as usual". We don't accept the brutal violations of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, who fight with their lives to protect precious forests, for the sake of more cattle ranches or monoculture plantations.

Support for this law is broad, as demonstrated by the European Parliament vote. We stand with them, and over 140 charities, NGOs and Indigenous Peoples' organisations and over one million citizens that have called for a strong new law that guarantees deforestation and human rights abuses do not have a place in our supermarkets, cafes, restaurants, or communities.

The EU has a unique opportunity to guide the world's path towards a deforestation-free future. Each EU country is different, but we need all EU leaders to come together and adopt a strong and ambitious law that protects both forests and the Indigenous and local communities fighting to defend them.

European Union leaders and decision-makers – we are counting on you.

**#Together4Forests**



Respectfully,

Bryan Adams

Malin Akerman

Gillian Anderson

Peter Antico

Prigi Arisandi

Darren Aronofsky

Yann Arthus-Bertrand

Laura Bailey

Taye Balgoun

Neidinha Bandeira

Michelle Barton

Xiye Bastida

Ed Begley Jr.

Imene Benamrouche

Julie Bergman

Bre Blair

Hart Bochner

Andrea Bowers

Genesis Butler

Philippe Caland

Micah Carns

David Casselman

Emmanuelle Chriqui

Nancy Christiano

Nalleli Cobo

Coldplay

Chip Comins

Olivia Cooke

Sebastian Copeland

Philippe & Ashlan  
Cousteau

Elliot Cowan

Natasha Culzac

Richard Curtis

Blythe Danner

Luke Davis

Rosario Dawson

Rocky Dawuni

Julie Delpy

Danielle de Niese

Anuna De Wever

Elizabeth Debicki

Julinka Doenhoff

Maria Dolores Dieguez

Sarah Dupont

Sigrid Dyekjaer

Brian Eno

Joseph Fiennes

Frances Fisher

Jane Fonda

Uri Fruchtmann

Emanuel Gat

David Gilmour

Jamie Glover

Meta Golding

Mara Gourdine

Richard Greene

Vincenzo Gudino

Yerin Ha

Ray Halbritter

Isaias Hernandez

Ravid Kahalani

Bentley Kalu

Ibrahima Keita

Kate Kennedy

Dani Klupsch

Rachel Kropa

Awir Leon

Asher Levin

Debbie Levin

Mayli M

Loic Mabanza

Alastair Mackenzie

Wendie Malick

Aditi Mayer

Natasha McElhone

Adam McKay

Sienna Miller

Angus Mitchell

**#Together4Forests**



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Lora O'Connor	Matteo Simoni	Yvonne Zima
Jonathan Olinger	Atossa Soltani	Constance Zimmer
Carter Oosterhouse	Samantha Spiro	
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Paul Paz y Miño	Steven Starr	
Maya Penn	Barbra Streisand	
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**#Together4Forests**