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
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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
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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

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