

## PRESS RELEASE

14/03/22

# INTERGRAF CALLS ON MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT TO EXTEND THE SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED REGULATION ON DEFORESTATION TO PRINTED PRODUCTS

For many years, Intergraf has been advocating for the inclusion of printed products in the scope of the EU Timber Regulation. Unfortunately, the European Commission never initiated a review process of the scope.

Instead, the European Commission decided to address global deforestation in a new legislation: late 2021, it presented a [proposal for a Regulation on commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation](#). The draft legislation aims at restricting the access of products which involve global deforestation or forest degradation. The product coverage includes cattle, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, soya and wood. On the latter, the proposed scope is the same as the one of the EU Timber Regulation, i.e. it does not cover printed products.

As the scrutiny procedure is about to start in the European Parliament, Intergraf is calling on Members of the European Parliament to extend the scope to printed products.

Printed products are one of the few wood-based products not being covered by the future European legislation on deforestation.

Every year, millions euros worth of printed products are imported into the European market from a possibly unsafe origin. This does not only constitute an environmental loophole, but it also creates a distortion of competition between European printers and international competitors. Moreover, illegal logging and deforestation blemish the reputation of our value chain and the image of printed products.

With the current critical situation where European printers lack the raw material they need to produce for the European market, it is unacceptable that international competitors can continue importing printed products circumventing key environmental rules.

Intergraf, therefore, calls on the European legislator to restore fair competition on the European market, close the environmental loophole and secure the reputation of and confidence in printed products in Europe by extending the scope of the proposed Regulation on deforestation to printed products.

See **position paper**: [HERE](#).

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### Quote:

*“European consumers should be able to trust that the books or children colouring books that they buy on the European market do not contribute to global deforestation. This can only be achieved by including printed products in the scope of the Regulation.”*

Beatrice Klose, Intergraf Secretary General

**- ENDS -**

The **European printing industry** supports all economic activities with their products, be it for information, news, entertainment, education, advertising or packaging. Print plays a huge role in everyday life – so much so that it is frequently overlooked. Our sector supplies the packaging for goods at the supermarket, the books, newspapers and magazines we read as well as the boxes our digitally ordered food, clothing, gadgets and much more are packaged in. These products are produced by 112,000 printing companies all over Europe that employ 640,000 people and generate a turnover of 82 billion EUR (EU27 + UK, Switzerland, and Norway). The industry throughout Europe consists mainly of small enterprises, as 90% of them employ fewer than 20 persons.

Intergraf ([www.intergraf.eu](http://www.intergraf.eu)) is the **European printing industry association**, representing employers in this sector. We are a Brussels-based umbrella organisation with 20 members from 19 countries.

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