Brussels, 7 December 2020

RE: Request for a meeting to discuss advancing a no-deforestation objective

Dear Ms Fink-Hooijer,

On behalf of COCERAL (representing trade in cereals, rice, feedstuffs, oilseeds, olive oil, oils and fats and agro-supply), FEDIOL (representing the vegetable oil and proteinmeal Industry) and FEFAC (representing the compound feed and premix industry in Europe), I would like to request a meeting with you to discuss possible EU regulatory approaches to fight deforestation and share some of our experience with the numerous voluntary initiatives that have been taken over the last decade.

For several years now, the protection of native vegetation and the prevention of deforestation have triggered specific voluntary actions in both the soy and the palm oil sector. We have gained understanding of the challenges and limitations of driving sustainable production practices through complex supply chains. Our objective is the development of mainstream sustainable supplies and this has been driven through involvement in multi-stakeholder platforms, engagement with players in producer countries and cooperation across the supply chain. Specifically, two of our organisations are now involved in the multi-stakeholder platform on Protecting and Restoring the World's Forests, where we are committed to contribute to the debates and support the process that will lead to an EU regulatory and non-regulatory framework.

We are convinced that tackling deforestation effectively requires coordinated action from both private players and public authorities. We are keen to provide you with our understanding of the situation in certain origination countries and in supply chains for which we have particular experience. We are also ready to share with you our vision of how the changes in our supply chains could be further supported or accelerated.

We thank you in advance for your time and consideration and we hope that you will agree to meeting with us to discuss some of these issues further.

Yours sincerely,