Dear [Name],

Thank you for your letter of 10 November 2021 on behalf of COCERAL, FEDIOIL and FEFAC to President von der Leyen with recommendations on the European Commission’s legislative proposal on deforestation. I have been asked to reply on her behalf.

On 17 November 2021, the Commission adopted its pioneering proposal[1] ‘on the making available on the Union market as well as export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation and repealing Regulation (EU) No 995/2010.’

The Regulation proposal aims to curb EU-driven deforestation and forest degradation and establishes clear obligations in that regard, notably in Article 3 of the proposal.

The legislative initiative therefore establishes in Article 9 clear traceability obligations via geographic coordinates linking the relevant commodities and products to the plot of land where they were produced. It is simply not possible to assess whether commodities and products have provoked deforestation or forest degradation if their place of production is unknown.

Requiring information on the plot of land or farm where the commodity has been produced will allow for the use of satellite images – widely available and free-to-use tools – to check whether a product or commodity is compliant with the Regulation. It is also expected to make fraud more difficult and easily detectable.

Strict traceability to plantation level to establish supply chains which exclude no products of unknown origin is already applied by the best-performers in the industry and amongst

certification organisations. The Regulation proposal provides for the necessary adaptation period for the rest of the market to follow suit and adapt.

I thank you again for your input and look forward to further cooperation on the subject.

Yours sincerely,

Virginijus Sinkevičius