

87 Percent of Europeans Support New Laws to Combat Global Deforestation, New Poll Shows

By [Fern](#)

Global Research, May 25, 2019

[Fern](#) 21 May 2019

Region: [Europe](#)

Theme: [Environment](#), [Law and Justice](#)

An overwhelming majority of Europeans want new laws to ensure that the food they eat and the products they buy don't drive global deforestation, according to a [YouGov](#) poll released today.

Eighty-seven per cent of those polled across 25 EU countries agreed that legislation was necessary to protect forests. Ninety-one per cent also said they cared deeply about forests and agreed that deforestation is harmful for people and wildlife.

The poll, which is released ahead of international biodiversity day on Wednesday 22 May, was commissioned by the [Environmental Investigation Agency](#), [Fern](#), [Greenpeace](#) and [WWF](#).

Speaking on behalf of the NGOs, [Hannah Mowat](#) said:

“Europeans have made it very clear: they understand the terrible consequences of deforestation and don't want to be complicit in this tragedy. They don't want to buy dairy products, steaks or snacks that are tainted by forest destruction. They want new laws ensuring that the simple act of shopping no longer means walking an ethical tightrope.”

The poll also concludes that the majority of EU citizens think neither their national governments (sixty-six per cent) nor the EU (sixty-one per cent) are doing enough to tackle global deforestation.

“Some countries, such as France or the Netherlands, are already acting to stop deforestation. But a piecemeal approach will not work, as companies can bypass the laws of one EU country by operating in another. The solution must be EU-wide regulation. This is the last chance for the EU to stand by its commitment to halt deforestation by 2020. Failing to act would be a black mark on M. Juncker's environmental legacy,” Mowat said.

The poll is published at a time when the European Commission, which will be presided by M. Jean Claude Juncker until November 2019, is [expected](#) to unveil plans to step up EU action against deforestation. It remains unclear whether these will include proposals for new laws.

The [European Parliament](#), [governments](#), [European citizens](#) and [NGOs](#) have all called for regulatory measures to ensure that products placed on the EU market have not caused deforestation or violated human rights. Similarly, new laws should stop the EU financial sector from facilitating global deforestation.

The EU [has made an international pledge](#) to halt global deforestation by 2020. Yet it remains one of the largest markets for agricultural commodities, such as beef, palm oil, soy and cocoa, which have a major impact on the world's forests. Agriculture in general is one of the main causes of the destruction of primary forests, according [to recent data](#).

*

Note to readers: please click the share buttons above or below. Forward this article to your email lists. Crosspost on your blog site, internet forums. etc.

Featured image is from Fern

The original source of this article is [Fern](#)

Copyright © [Fern](#), [Fern](#), 2019

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Fern](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca
www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca