

Project *brief*

Thünen Institute of Forestry

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Trade in wood-based products: coverage by EUTR and the planned successor regulation

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- The wood content of 769 products for which some wood content can be assumed was determined for EU27 intra- and extra trade
- 87 % of imports of wood-based products from third countries into the EU27 were covered by the European Timber Regulation (EUTR) in 2020
- Not covered are mainly wood-based products such as waste paper, chairs and different other furniture, other articles made of wood (including charcoal) and printed matter

Background and Question

The **European Timber Regulation (EUTR)** prohibits the placing of wood-based products from illegal sources on the European Union (EU) market. Since 2021, the EU has been negotiating a **Regulation on Deforestation-Free Supply Chains (Def-Reg)** to replace the EUTR. Not all wood-based products are covered by the EUTR and not all wood-based products are included in the three proposals for the Def-Reg by the EU Commission (EU Com), the EU Parliament and the EU Council.

When deciding on the inclusion of products in the regulation, the question arises as to which products have a relevant wood as well as market share in EU trade.

Approach and Methods

The Thünen Institute considered the trade volume of all products for which a certain wood content can be assumed. The trade volume was converted into the reference unit cubic meters of roundwood equivalent (RWE m³). This allows the roundwood input required for the production of the respective products to be estimated.

Three different trade flows falling within the scope of the planned Def-Reg are distinguished: a) imports from third countries into the EU27, b) exports to third countries from the EU27 and c) intra trade between EU Member States.

Results

In 2020, the EU27 traded a total of almost 1 billion RWE m³ of wood-based products (see Tab. 1). 87 % of these imports were covered by the EUTR. In addition to imports, the Def-Reg should also apply to exports and intra trade.

Tab. 1: EU27 trade volumes in the year 2020 of wood-based products within and out of the scope of the EUTR.

	Imports	Exports	Intra trade
	[million RWE m ³]		
EUTR-products	132.20 ⁱ	235.00 ⁱⁱ	462.74 ⁱⁱ
non EUTR-products	20.50	28.27	58.76
Total	152.70	263.27	521.51

ⁱ green: trade flows covered by the EUTR and Def-Reg proposal,

ⁱⁱ red: trade flows covered by the Def-Reg proposal

Source: Köthke, Weimar (2022) Table 1.

The EU Commission proposes the same product coverage for the Def-Reg as for the EUTR (see Tab. 2). The EU Council and the EU Parliament both propose to include additional wood-based products. The EU Council supports the most comprehensive product list (including charcoal, chairs and other articles of wood), which would cover 93 % of imports. The EU Parliament's proposal (including charcoal and printed matter) would cover 89 % of imports.

Tab.2: Coverage of imports of wood-based products into the EU27 according to the EUTR and the various drafts for the design of the Def-Reg.

Total import volume [million RWE m ³]	Product coverage according to			
	EUTR	EU-Com	EU-Council	EU-Parliament
	[share of total]			
152.70	87 %	87 %	93 %	89 %

Source: Köthke, Weimar (2022) Chapter 3.4 Table 14.

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