

*Press release*

## **Biofuels linked with deforestation are officially given a free pass by the European Commission**

*The delegated act adopted today by the European Commission – which aims to set criteria for high and low-ILUC-risk biofuels with a view to cap and eventually phase out the use of the former – goes against the spirit of the Renewable Energy Directive and the political agreement both in the EU Council and the European Parliament.*

- First of all, the European Commission maintains an exemption by providing small holders an extremely lax criteria for low ILUC risk certification. By doing so, **the Commission grants small holders permission to continue the destruction of tropical forests and opens a wide door to imports of artificially certified low ILUC-risk palm oil biofuels.**
- Secondly, the delegated act only targets palm oil as a high ILUC risk feedstocks, but **fails to target palm derivatives and coproducts** which shares in European biofuels are alarmingly increasing.

**These two major loopholes are absolutely incompatible with the position taken by the European Parliament and the EU Council:** in the revised Renewable Energy Directive, the co-legislators very explicitly called for the phase out of high ILUC risk biofuels such as the ones produced from palm oil. As such, this flawed delegated act not only steps out of its legal basis but also severely discredits the European decision-making process, two months before the EU elections.

We believe that the EU needs to ramp up efforts against deforestation, by phasing out feedstocks which contribute to the destruction of natural habitats and promoting deforestation-free European oilseeds. Consequently, **European oilseed farmers urge the European Parliament and the EU Council to formally object to this flawed act** and demand that the Commission present a new one that is in line with their political agreement.

Founded in 2002, the **European Oilseed Alliance** brings together the oilseed producing organizations from the main European countries (Germany, France, UK, Poland, Czech Republic, Finland, Belgium and Sweden) and represents 90% of European oilseed production.