

Confrontation between representatives of the Alpe Adria Wood Clusters on EUDR impact on macroregional economy.

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Clusters from Austria, Slovenia and Italy met to share concerns and proposals on the Regulation that is disrupting the world of wood.

A **crucial meeting** took place on Friday in **Tarvisio between the Wood Clusters of Carinthia, Friuli Venezia Giulia and Slovenia**, where the Alpe Adria forestry-forest stakeholders addressed **pressing issues such as the EUDR, the European Union's regulation on deforestation that has become the subject of European and global debate**. Not an easy challenge, to which the European forest-wood system is preparing itself by committing itself at both the institutional and operational levels. The discussion focused in particular on the **implications of the Regulation, which has become the subject of discussion** among member states because of the important repercussions it is having on the global landscape of the timber sector and beyond.

The intent of the delegates from the Alpe Adria regions - Cluster Legno Arredo Casa Fvg, Wood Industry Cluster Slovenia, Timber Innovation Network Alpe Adria (Tinaa) accompanied by relevant stakeholders including FederlegnoArredo, Confindustria Udine, Legno Servizi, Confartigianato Udine, Land- und Forstbetriebe, Kärntner Forstverein and the presence of officials from the Slovenian Ministry of Forestry, of the Carinthia Region and the Autonomous Region FVG as well as leading entrepreneurs in the sector - is thus to share good practices and to **find a common position before the European Union**, to advance a review of the legislative proposal on, precisely, the EUDR issue and to support the system for the near future.

After the online institutional welcome by manager **Pietro Oieni**, head of the Competent Authority for Wood of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry, there followed the introduction of the work by **Silvia Melegari** live from Brussels, secretary general of Cei Bois - an association that groups the main European wood federations - the Cluster representatives whose positions found immediate convergence.

While recognizing the potentially noble goal of this regulation, the **Cluster Legno Arredo e Sistema Casa FVG**, through representatives expressed strong concerns about its concrete implementation expressed by stakeholder delegates **Alessandro Calcaterra, Marco Vidoni, Mirco Cigliani and Paolo Fantoni**

"We are ready to cooperate with the Region, relevant Ministries and the European Union to ensure environmental protection and the productive capacity of the sector, but we put forward the **proposal to postpone the entry into force of the Regulation, particularly in the sanctioning part, providing a transition phase of at least 3 years**. This will give time to set up consultation tables for the analysis and revision of the most impactful parts of the Regulation on the bureaucratic burdens for businesses."

Concerns also came from the **Wood Industry Cluster Slovenia** about the substantial bureaucratic burdens imposed by the EUDR on businesses, which would weigh heavily on SMEs in particular, as

shared by Ms Simona Vrevc of the Slovenian Ministry accompanied by entrepreneurs Bojan Resman, Matej Mulej and cluster manager Bernard Likar . "In order to harmonize the EUDR with the interests of the industry and forest owners, we too suggest a **postponement in the implementation of the standard**, at least until the EU information system is operational."

The Timber Innovation Network Alpe-Adria (TINAA) stresses the **importance of a European policy that supports forest owners and forestry companies** in the active and sustainable management of forest resources, who must be involved in the decision-making process through structured dialogue. To avoid short-term burdens, a revision of the deforestation regulation that removes legal uncertainties is needed, according to the unified positions expressed by both Labgs. KR Stefanie Ofner, present on behalf of LH-STv. Martin Gruber, both former state governor Christian Benger (Land &Forstbetriebe), president Johannes Thun-Valsassina (Kärtner Forstverein), Matthias Granitzer (Waldverband Kärnten), and Cluster leader Sebastian Adami.

In conclusion, the three Clusters reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen dialogue and collaboration to address the challenges posed by the EUDR, ensuring that the interests of their regions and the wood sector are adequately represented and protected, while respecting the balance between environmental protection, economic growth and social welfare.

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