



The European Oleochemicals & Allied
Products Group



European Committee of Organic Surfactants and their
intermediates

Press Release

APAG & Cesio reactions to the European Parliament vote on the Deforestation proposal

Brussels, 13 September 2022 – Following the European Parliament’s plenary vote, APAG and Cesio, two sector groups of Cefic, would like to express their concerns regarding the Commission’s proposal to minimise the risk of deforestation and forest degradation associated with products placed on the EU market.

We are extremely concerned that the scope of the proposal was not extended to include all derivatives of palm oil and palm kernel. Not including palm and palm kernel oils derivatives will shift production of oleochemicals outside of Europe, putting our industry – a key player of the European bioeconomy – at risk.

We believe that **traceability to palm oil mills, complemented by relevant due diligence, is currently the most effective tool in place to secure a sustainable supply-chain and inclusive of all players, mainly smallholders who represent ca. 40% of the palm oil production in South-East Asia.** One size does not fit all. Palm and palm kernel oils are liquid goods unlike wood, coffee and cocoa beans, making traceability requirements more complex. Such guidelines are the only way to ensure a proper traceability of the supply chain. Failing to provide commodity specific guidelines will bring unintended consequences to the consumer market, affecting the availability of these commodities.

Moreover, **we regret to see that a country benchmarking system is still being proposed.** Palm oil is strongly linked to deforestation despite the many efforts put in place to move towards production of sustainable palm oil. Discouraging sustainable production in areas active on reversing this trend is a concern and will result in shifting deforestation to other areas considered as “low-risk”. It will create distortion of trade, affect the competitiveness of the European manufacturing industry and would not address deforestation and forest degradation.

Our members are committed to a transition to a deforestation-free supply chain and for over 15 years have been promoting and continuously improving sustainability schemes - such as RSPO¹, the most recognised and accepted certification scheme by consumer industries and NGOs. APAG and Cesio remain willing to work with the EU institutions to improve sustainability schemes and ensure clean supply chains.

We will continue to engage in the upcoming regulatory steps to work towards a balanced regulation and to deepen the collaborative dialogue with the EU institutions to identify solutions and minimise the negative impacts.

¹ [RSPO - Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil](#)



APAG – the European Oleochemical Industry is a long-established sector of the European bioeconomy. Since the early 19th century, the oleochemical industry has been using rendered animal fats to manufacture bio-based products used for candles, paints, detergents, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and many other applications.

Our industry continues to invest in sustainable technologies enabling the development of a circular bioeconomy: for instance, oleochemical products are used to de-ink used paper to enable recycling and to de-ice airplanes as an alternative to fossil-based materials.

For more information visit our website www.apag.eu or visit our [LinkedIn](#) page

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CESIO (the European Committee of Organic Surfactants and their Intermediates) is an industry association that represents manufacturers and marketers in the European surfactants industry. CESIO contributes to better understanding of surfactants and the many ways in which they contribute to economic development and quality of life; and addresses specific issues relating to human health and the environment in order to sustain their beneficial contribution to society. Surfactants have a wide range of end-uses including in household detergents, personal care formulations, industrial and institutional washing and cleaning, as well as technical applications in textiles, leather and paper treatment, agrochemicals, the metal, mining and oil industries, and in plastics, lubricants, paints and coatings.

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