



*Date: Thursday, 25 July 2019*

**Statement by the European Sustainable Palm Oil Advocacy Group (ESPOAG)  
On the European Commission Communication on Deforestation**

CAOBISCO, IMACE, FEDIOL, FEDIMA and AIBI, the five associations that compose ESPOAG, welcome the European Commission's Communication on Deforestation: "Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests", adopted on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 2019.

Key messages:

- ESPOAG appreciates the EU's proposed approach to strengthen international cooperation, set up a multi-stakeholder dialogue and consider measures to encourage the use of sustainable products;
- Our industries will contribute to the EU-objectives by a continuous **increase of the use of certified sustainable palm oil**;
- EASPOAG looks forward to continuing discussions with the European Commission on the implementation of the actions moving forward for sustainable production in a structured dialogue.

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## About ESPOAG

The European Sustainable Palm Oil Advocacy Group (ESPOAG) was created in January 2013 with the objective to support the uptake of sustainable palm oil in Europe and to communicate scientific and objective facts and figures on environmental, nutritional and functional aspects of this nutritious and versatile commodity.

ESPOAG represents major food sectors at European level that source a large range of raw materials. ESPOAG supports the EU objective to stop deforestation by 2030, at the latest, and the promotion of this objective at international level. The sectors ESPOAG represents recognise the important role they play in acting as a responsible steward of forests and natural habitat. Throughout our memberships, companies are taking a proactive role in tackling deforestation through improved traceability and supplier engagement.

### **ESPOAG is composed of the following European food sectors federations:**

- AIBI: International Association of Plant Bakers
- CAOBISCO: Chocolate, Biscuits and Confectionery of Europe
- FEDIMA: Federation of European Union Manufacturers and Suppliers of Ingredients to the Bakery, Confectionery and Patisserie Industries
- FEDIOL: EU Vegetable Oil and Protein meal Industry
- IMACE: European Margarine Association

### **Commitment and partnership**

The European food sector is working closely with stakeholders all along the supply chain – producers, refiners, retailers – to drive sustainable palm oil production. European consumers play a key role in demanding products containing sustainably produced palm oil. Through the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), the certification standard dedicated to sustainable palm production, we aim at informing consumers about their role in promoting sustainable practices in producing countries. We are committed to offer to consumers a wide range of food products, carefully taking into account their nutrient composition as well as their optimal taste and convenience. ESPOAG works closely with the existing national alliances committed to sustainable palm oil in Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the UK<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://rspo.org/certification/national-commitments>