



## 1. FEFPEB Meetings 2026

### a. SPRING MEETING – 8 AND 9 APRIL 2026 / PORTO (PORTUGAL)

The annual meeting for the official representatives of the FEFPEB membership.  
Kindly hosted by AIMMP.

At the *all members meeting* on the afternoon of 8 April 2026 4 speakers:

- [Francisco Jaime Quesado](#), Economist and Manager from the University of Porto on **Sustainability**
- [Luis Rocharte Álvarez](#), Forestry engineer (UTAD), postgraduate in Sustainability at the Stanford Graduate School of Business and Harvard Business School on **Economic perspectives in Europe**
- [Brent McLendon](#), CEO and President NWCA (USA) on **global industry goals and ambitions**
- [Nikhil Varghese](#), DGA Brussels on the **PPWR developments**

And meetings of the **Policy & Technical Committee**, several **working groups** (PR, PPWR and EPR, IP, block manufacturers, pallet pools) and attention the **future strategy of FEFPEB**

### b. 73rd FULL SCALE FEFPEB congress, 30 SEPTEMBER – 2 OCTOBER 2026 / BASTAD (SWEDEN)

Hosted by **Swedish Wood**.

Preparation on schedule, first information to be launched in March 2026

- Excellent *congress and hotel facilities*
- *Connections / logistics perfect*
- *Super company tour* with visits to Södra Värö (big sawmill operations), Swedish forestry and Åsljunga Pallet AB (integrated sawmill and pallet production)

## 2. PPWR UPDATE

### a. Plastic Wraps and Straps / re-use

FEFPEB responded to the Public Consultation by the European Commission on re use targets for plastic wraps & straps ([click here](#)).

This week was published the Commission Delegated Decision exempting certain economic operators that use pallet wrappings and straps from the 100% reuse requirements of these packaging formats ([click here](#)).

It seems that the exemption is not general, but restricted to pallets.  
Regarding the potential exemption for plastic straps and wraps in industrial packaging, the combined industry position advocated a complete exemption from reuse targets across all transport packaging applications. While the Delegated Act's wording is not fully clear, we recommend submitting a targeted **clarification request to the Commission**.

### b. FEFPEB request for clarification on forthcoming Commission Notice PPWR

FEFPEB calls for a meeting with the European Commission on topics related to wooden packaging.  
A **clarification request** for this purpose is developed by the Task Force PPWR and related to such elements as:  
Definition "manufacturer" and "producer", multi-component packaging (IP), labelling requirements and re-use targets.  
When finalized it will be shared with the FEFPEB membership.

## 3. EUDR Update

### a. Report from Deforestation Platform meeting held February 2026

This is key information provided by DG ENV.

#### EUDR amendment & simplification – overview

- The EUDR consolidated legal text has been published on EUR-Lex, with all language versions to follow soon. Click [here](#) for the text.
- The objective of the EUDR amendment is to reduce pressure on the IT system by streamlining processes and improving operational efficiency.
- Another objective is to simplify obligations for downstream operators and micro/small primary operators (MSPOs) located in low-risk countries.
- The framework also aims to improve legal stability and predictability for operators, providing clearer guidance and greater certainty.

#### April 2026 simplification package

- Currently the Commission has received more than 90 new position papers have been received, addressing over 400 stakeholder questions
- As announced in the EUDR amendment, the Commission will conduct by end of April 2026 a simplification review, which could result in a legislative proposal where appropriate.
- DG ENV has confirmed that the review process is ongoing, which will result in an April 2026 simplification package.
- The Commission's position is to avoid reopening the EUDR legal act and to focus instead on simplifications and clarifications that remain within the limits of the existing legal text.
- Key elements of the upcoming simplification package (more details below):
  - A Delegated Act addressing Annex I is being developed to support implementation.
  - An updated Implementing Act will refine and improve the Information System.
  - Updated FAQs and guidance will provide additional clarification and practical direction.

#### Delegated Act (Annex I)

- It will include those horizontal simplifications proposed back in the draft Delegated Act in 2025.
- In addition to the scope of the 2025 draft, it will introduce further products, while clarifying specific exclusions to improve scope certainty.
- A new public consultation is planned, potentially to be launched by the end of March, given that the scope will have changed substantially compared to the 2025 draft.

#### Updated Implementing Act on Information System

- Over 150 companies participated in the Information System survey launched last December.
- The current IS revision is intended to reflect the simplified regime applicable to micro and small primary operators (MSPOs).
- It also ensures alignment with the amended regulatory framework.
- The Commission also informed about the temporary access limitations to the EUDR Information System from 16 February.
  - The exact reopening date will be communicated in mid-April, with the system reopening shortly thereafter.
  - This temporary measure is necessary to facilitate the deployment of updates to the EUDR Information System reflecting the amended provisions of the EU Deforestation Regulation and to ensure the timely and efficient implementation of related technical updates.
  - During this period, the following limitations will be in place:
    - The LIVE production server will remain accessible in read-only mode, allowing system users to consult existing content.
    - The ACCEPTANCE server (replica platform) will temporarily be unavailable.
  - While these measures are in place, no new registrations will be accepted and no new submissions will be available on either server. These will be able to resume as soon as the system reopens.

#### FAQ and Guidance updates

- This process will be conducted in close coordination with the Member States to support a harmonized interpretation of the EUDR provisions.
- The new iteration of the FAQ and Guidance will provide clarification to various topics:
  - Identification of first downstream operator/trader
  - Substantiated concerns & downstream liability
  - Definition of MSPO & mixed business cases
  - Re-imports
  - E-commerce & B2C imports from outside EU

## Q&A highlights

#### Information System & due diligence statements

- DG ENV confirmed that the submission of due diligence statements (DDSs) will be possible only for upstream operators.
- It further revealed that, pending approval from Member States and Commission services, the grouping of existing DDSs is expected to be available only to upstream operators, and only for their own previously submitted statements.
- Downstream operators are unlikely to be granted the capability to submit DDSs directly.
- Access to the Information System by third-country operators will be possible only if they are registered as an operator and possess an EORI number.

#### Due diligence obligations for downstream operators

- DG ENV stated that non-SME downstream operators must act on substantiated concerns, which means they require access to relevant upstream due diligence statements (DDSs) for verification purposes.
- The verification obligation, however, is not systematic but rather applies on an ad hoc basis when substantiated concerns arise.
- Further clarification on these points is expected to be provided through updated FAQs and Guidance.

#### Country risk benchmarking

- Questioned about a revision of the country risk benchmarking, DG ENV stated that a country risk classification framework has already been established, with the majority of countries currently classified as low risk.
- At the same time, the framework may be updated in the future as new data becomes available.
- The key priority now is to ensure legal certainty and predictability in preparation for year-end application.
- There are therefore no immediate plans to reopen the benchmarking process.

#### Exporting traders and exemption from DDS submission

- Asked whether the due diligence exemptions applicable to a "downstream operator" when exporting should also be applied to a "trader" when exporting, DG ENV clarified that any exporting activities qualify a firm as an "operator".
- It was also clarified in this sense that the EUDR does not establish a legal category of "exporting trader"; rather, a trader that exports products becomes by definition an "operator".
- Since the legal category of "exporting trader" does not exist, it is not necessary to establish a dedicated exemption for these. The rules applicable to operators will apply.

Thanks to [Claudiu Sonda](#) / CEI Bois

## b. PRESS RELEASE / The European wood industry calls for a competitive, market-driven and circular bioeconomy

Click [here](#) for a press release following CEI-Bois' participation in the recently held high-level international bioeconomy event in Vienna.

On this occasion, the European woodworking industry reaffirmed a clear message: scaling up sustainable and carbon-neutral wood-based solutions requires securing the raw material base first.

This event was co-organised by Australia (Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry), Austria (Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management), Finland (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry), Japan (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries), Sweden (Ministry of Rural Affairs and Infrastructure), Türkiye (General Directorate of Forestry), FAO (Forestry Division) and IUFRO (International Union of Forest Research Organizations).

**Mrs Jessika Roswall, Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy** participated at the event.

Best regards,

Fons Ceelaert  
Secretary general

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