



1 **Prevention of deforestation in Ukraine**

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4 The area of forest in Ukraine covers less than 14% of its vast territory. This is why, in 2015, to  
5 prevent further deforestation, and to promote rational management of natural resources, a  
6 moratorium was introduced on the export of untreated timber from Ukraine.

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8 **Taking into consideration the climate change and the present state of environment in**  
9 **Ukraine**, such an approach was consonant with both national and global environmental  
10 protection interests, and the principles of a 'green economy'. Unfortunately, this moratorium  
11 has not stopped deforestation and provoked smuggling and so called "grey exports" (wrong  
12 category declaration for example as waste wood or fire wood).

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14 However, outside Ukraine, this legislative act by the Ukrainian parliament considered as  
15 being contrary to the principles of free trade. In particular, the European Union has made the  
16 provision of EUR 600 million in macro-financial assistance conditional on the cancellation of  
17 the above-mentioned moratorium. While this may be in line with the EU's policy for raw  
18 materials, it limits the development choices of Ukraine.

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20 Further, forcing Ukraine to drop its moratorium could significantly increase the market  
21 pressure to cut down its forests. We, the European Greens, emphasise that the consideration  
22 of environmental factors must be a priority in the process of international economic  
23 cooperation. Therefore, we demand of the European Commission to find together with  
24 Ukraine a solution to keep the moratorium according to the idea of article 361 of the  
25 Association agreement.

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27 ~~We call on the European Commission to cancel its demand to lift the moratorium on the~~  
28 ~~export of untreated timber as a precondition for providing macro-financial assistance to~~  
29 ~~Ukraine, and support the country in its transition towards sustainable development.~~

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31 Deforestation is a conveyor belt to devastating climate change and species loss that the  
32 world must stop, and fast. "It is hypocritical for Europe to portray itself as a climate leader  
33 while doing little to slow its own insatiable appetite for the fruits of destroyed forests." The  
34 EU has to set an example, the battle against deforestation must be fought also in Europe  
35 (Ukraine, Poland ...). To combat deforestation a number of EU policies need to be reinforced.  
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