“Administrative Simplification of the Deforestation-Free Products Regulation: The Road to Hell is Paved with Good Intentions”

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While forest cover has increased in Europe, the overall situation remains worrying. According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation, no less than 4.2 million km2 of forest was cleared between 1990 and 2020. From 2021 to 2022, deforestation increased from 5,4 to 5,8 million hectares, the size of Croatia. At this rate, several countries, such as Ivory Coast, Nigeria, and Ethiopia will be devoid of their old-growth forests within a few years. Although tropical forests are vital resources for indigenous communities, store around 340 billion tonnes of CO2 and are home to two-thirds of the world's biodiversity, they are subject to a much higher deforestation rate than temperate forests.

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