

## SUBJECT: Ongoing revision of the Renewable Energy Directive

Rome, 10th March 2023

Dear MEPs,

**Deadlock** over burning forests for fuel in Renewable Energy (RED) Trilogue talks.

**Parliament's negotiators must stand firm against the Council's rejection of the EP position to stop incentives for burning the most damaging types of forest wood.**



Aerial footage of a clear-cut forest in Finland  
*Source: Deforestation Inc.*

### **1. 'Deforestation Inc.': journalists expose widespread failure of EU's sustainability criteria:**

An international journalists' investigation - **Deforestation Inc.** - has highlighted the failure of timber and woodpellet certification in the EU under the current approaches. Research by 140 members of the International Journalists Consortium **ICIJ** has exposed how green labels and sustainability criteria meant to certify compliance with EU legislation such as the RED are in practice allowing 'greenwashing', resulting in illegal logging and destruction of forests in the EU and globally in the name of climate measures.

Their findings demonstrate that sustainability criteria and the Council's position for a "risk-based approach" in the RED simply do not work and cannot protect EU forests. We need clear restrictions for the use of the most damaging parts of forest wood, primary forest biomass, not more "sustainability criteria" that cement the status quo of forest destruction.

See Italian media reports:

- [Waste burned with wood, trees cut down to get more incentives, ties with clans: what's behind the seizure of the biomass plant in Cutro \(Crotone\)](#)
- [Europe towards the elimination of forest biomass subsidies. But for environmentalists too many exceptions and uncertain times](#)

## **2. Council refuses Parliament's position on renewable energy and forests.**

Council blocks negotiations on Parliament's position to stop incentives for burning forests for energy. The Presidency proposals in the Trilogue on renewable energy (RED) would just keep business as usual, based on sustainability criteria that do not work; they would leave forests unprotected against the economic drivers for logging for fuel and work directly against EU's climate goals by reducing the forest carbon sinks.

**Scientists disagree with Council** and have [written](#) to EU policy-makers asking them to

- stop the RED's incentives to log and burn forests for fuel, which is driving the [loss of vital forest carbon sinks](#) in several Member states; and
- respect the science showing that burning forest biomass [emits more CO2 per unit energy than coal](#).

Green Impact, as a member of Forest Defenders Alliance and Stop Fake Renewables, has written to the Italian Energy Minister to call on them to stop support for burning forests in the name of renewable energy.

**Please support our call to Energy Ministers - and urge Parliament's negotiators - MEP Markus Pieper and MEP Nils Torvalds to stand firm in defence of Parliament's voted position and reject Council's weakening.**

### **CONTATTI**

**Gaia Angelini**  
**Green Impact**

*Presidente*

[gaia.angelini@greenimpact.it](mailto:gaia.angelini@greenimpact.it)

