

Ursula Von der Leyen
President of the European Commission
European Commission

With copy to:

Annika Wäppling Korzinek
Head of Representation
European Commission Representation in Sweden

By electronic mail

Wednesday 17 January 2024

Meeting request: the risks of the Swedish forestry model for climate and biodiversity and Sámi peoples' rights.

Dear President,

We have become aware that you are visiting Sweden this week, in order to meet with the Swedish and Finnish Prime Ministers, as well as with representatives of the forest industry. While we warmly welcome your visit, we are concerned that you will be presented with a one-sided view of the Swedish and Finnish forest industry and the state of our forests.

The Swedish Government is trying to claim that we have healthy forests, that the Swedish forestry model is sustainable, and that logging our forests is key to combating climate change. These claims are, at best, myths. Our forest has a worse status and weaker protection than the EU average. No other country has such lax legislation against clearcutting. It was also shameful that [Sweden used the EU Presidency to undermine the EU's work for climate, nature protection and biological diversity](#).

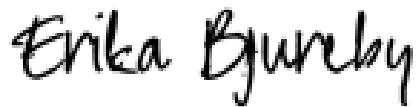
The Swedish and Finnish Governments have heavily lobbied and tried to block or weaken other important EU legislative processes, such as the Regulation on land, land use change and forestry (LULUCF), the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) and parts of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, and are now behind in implementing the needed steps for implementation of these legislations, such as identifying and designating forest areas for protection.

These are a few of the many important facts about Swedish and Finnish forestry that will not be presented to you during your visit. It is very important that the

Commission has the full perspective of our forests in order to make informed decisions for the benefit of all interests and the environment. The Commission will soon do the important work of classifying countries as low, medium or high risk as part of the EUDR country benchmarking. This must be based on all relevant facts, not only the view of the forestry industry.

We would welcome an opportunity to meet with you during your visit or at your earliest convenience. We look forward to hearing from you.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erika Bjureby". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Erika Bjureby
Program Director
Greenpeace Sweden