

5 May 2021

An open letter on the protection of the Amazon

To the Deputies and Senators of the National Congress of Brazil,

A year ago, we wrote to you about our concern about Provisional Measure 910, then reshaped to PL 2633/2020. We were heartened by your previous decision to withdraw the proposal before it was brought to the floor.

Over the past year, we have seen a series of circumstances result in extremely high levels of forest fires and deforestation in Brazil. At the same time, we have noted that the targets to reduce these levels, as well as the enforcement budgets available to deliver them, are increasingly inadequate. It is therefore extremely concerning to see that the same measure we responded to last year is being put forward again as the [legislative proposal PL 510/21](#) with potentially even greater threats to the Amazon than before. These measures are counter to the narrative and rhetoric we have seen internationally from Brazil as recently as 22 April 2021 at the summit with US President Joe Biden.

We would like to reiterate that we consider the Amazon as a vital part of the earth system that's essential to the security of our planet as well as being a critical part of a prosperous future for Brazilians and all of society. The existing protections and land designations enshrined in Brazilian legislation have been instrumental in our organisations having trust that our products, services, investments and business relationships in Brazil are aligned with the commitments we hold as environmentally and socially responsible enterprises, and that our customers and stakeholders expect of us.

Our door remains open to work with Brazilian partners on supporting the development of sustainable land management and agriculture. We are willing partners to enable this in a way that supports economic development whilst upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities. These critical goals must be achieved without putting at risk the progress that Brazil has made so far in protecting the vital ecosystems that are essential for the health of the world we all share. However, if this or other measures that undermine these existing protections become law, we will have no choice but to reconsider our support and use of the Brazilian agricultural commodity supply chain.

We urge the Brazilian government to reconsider its proposal.

Signatories:

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The Big Prawn Company

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Co-op Switzerland
The Co-operative Group
Cranswick plc
Donau Soja
EdenTree Investment Management
Greggs plc
Hilton Food Group
KLP Kapitalforvaltning AS
Legal & General Investment Management
Lidl Stiftung
Marks & Spencer
METRO AG
Migros
Moy Park
National Pig Association
New England Seafood International (NESI)
Pilgrim's UK
ProTerra Foundation
Red Tractor Assurance
Retail Soy Group
J Sainsbury Plc
Skandia
Swedbank Robur Fonder AB
Tesco PLC
Waitrose & Partners
Winterbotham Darby
Wm Morrison Supermarkets Plc