

COP30 call: Denmark must act on the urgency for feed soy phase-out - for climate, people, nature and animals

To: The Minister of Green Transition Jeppe Bruus, Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Jacob Jensen, and Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities Lars Aagaard

Denmark must show that green leadership also applies beyond the country's borders and create harmonization of Denmark's green transition at home with global climate obligations for COP30

Dear Ministers

With The Agreement on a Green Denmark, the Danish government has presented a plan for a new map of Denmark which promises more nature, cleaner water, and agriculture with reduced CO₂ emissions. It is ambitious – and it is necessary.

But if we do not follow the same principles outside the country's borders, it does not add up.

Because while we plant forests at home and talk about nature restoration, every year we import large quantities of soy meal that drive deforestation, pressure on indigenous peoples' livelihoods, and nature destruction in South America. Our national CO₂ reduction is negated – and more – by the negative climate impact we export to other countries.

We cannot call ourselves a green pioneer country if our footprint stops at the border. Therefore, Denmark should take the initiative for an international so called tripartite – a partnership that mirrors the Danish model of stakeholder collaboration - with a global focus. Here, the government, business community, green organizations, and representatives of indigenous peoples must find solutions for the part of our climate footprint that originates from the import of animal feed with a risk of deforestation and destruction of other vital ecosystems.

We urge the Danish government to utilize the momentum from the The Agreement on a Green Denmark and the visibility at COP30, which is strategically held in Belém, Brazil, at the gateway to the Amazon, to announce a binding national deadline (e.g., by 2030 at the latest) for the elimination of the use of imported feed soy in Danish industrial livestock production. This step is necessary to secure Denmark's national interests and establish genuine, global leadership in the transition of the food system for the benefit of climate, nature, animals, and people.

This would be a natural extension of the The Agreement on a Green Denmark – and an expression of true global leadership. If we truly believe that nature and climate must be protected, we must do so consistently.

Best regards,

Mighty Earth

Sinergia Animal

Instituto Oya



Dyrenes Beskyttelse



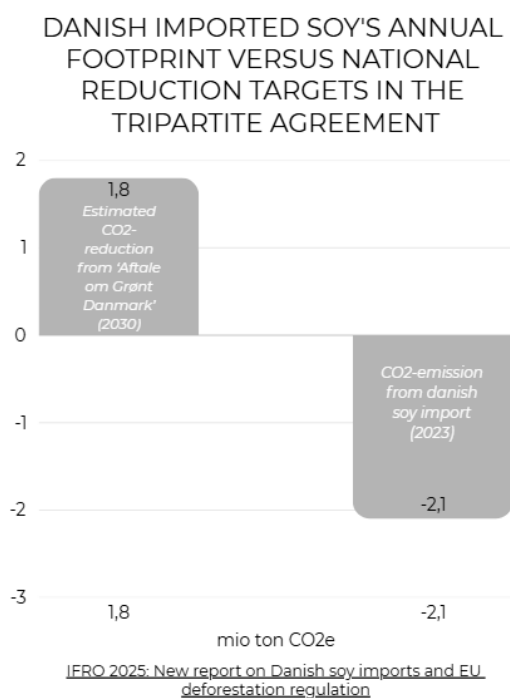
Verdens Skove

BACKGROUND

Both anchored in the Danish Climate Act and Denmark's national ambition to convert 390,000 hectares of land to nature, wetlands, and forest, we believe that Denmark should take the role of a global leader in nature and climate action.

However, we see a political dissonance: The large footprint from imported feed soy, which is necessary for industrial livestock production. With continued large-scale industrial animal production, all things being equal, we will face an increased feed requirement because agricultural areas are taken out of operation in connection with The Agreement on a Green Denmark.

It is necessary to close this gap by both setting a binding phase-out date and establishing a national working group for the phase-out of feed soy. This will be crucial for achieving deep emission reductions and securing national green leadership.



THE CORE OF THE PROBLEM

Scientific consensus confirms that the global food system is responsible for around 30% of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions. If this sector is not addressed, the global livestock industry could consume almost 50% of the world's remaining carbon budget by 2050. Furthermore, beef and soy are two of the biggest global drivers of deforestation.

Denmark's current feed strategy actively contributes to this risk: The commitment to planting forests nationally is undermined by a policy that maintains carbon-emitting land use abroad. This is the definition of an undermining climate policy – a political dimension is needed to ensure coherence.

STRATEGIC ARGUMENTS FOR SETTING A BINDING DEADLINE

1. International Leadership at COP30 in Belém, Brazil

The COP is strategically held in Belém, Brazil, at the gateway to the Amazon.

- **Visibility and credibility:** By announcing a firm deadline for phasing out imported feed soy, Denmark utilizes this moment to demonstrate unwavering political will to the international community. This strengthens Denmark's credibility in multilateral climate negotiations leading up to COP30 and ensures that our trade policy aligns with the Paris Agreement's commitments.
- **Low traceability today:** The latest figures from IFRO show that imports are still dominated by non-physical systems like credits. Only **6 percent** of the certified/verified soy volume in 2023 was physically traceable ('segregated') and thus demonstrably responsibly produced. The current approach does not guarantee deforestation-free soy and undermines companies' own goals. A deadline forces the transition to physical traceability, which is necessary to meet both EUDR and climate goals.

2. Securing biodiversity and wildlife

The vast majority of Denmark's imported feed soy comes from regions where production drives agricultural expansion into critical biomes like the Amazon and the Cerrado.

- **Protecting animal habitats:** By maintaining a feed strategy that annually occupies up to 600,000 hectares, Denmark is complicit in the destruction of habitats for countless species. A phase-out date transforms Denmark into a proactive leader in fulfilling global biodiversity targets, such as the CBD (UN Convention on Biological Diversity).
- **Beyond compliance:** A deadline goes beyond mere compliance with the EU regulation on deforestation-free products (EUDR). It represents strong leadership and an environmental commitment to protect nature and wildlife — a necessary pillar for a robust planetary system.

3. Strengthening National Resilience and Food System Security

Dependence on imported protein makes the Danish food sector extremely vulnerable to global crises.

- **Supply chain resilience and food security:** An announced deadline enforces the necessary transition to local, circular protein sources. This step drastically reduces exposure to price volatility and supply chain shocks caused by climate-driven harvest failures in producer countries, thereby securing the Danish food economy.
- **Environmental security:** The intensive livestock farming model exacerbates national challenges, including high nutrient runoff, which compromises the safety of clean drinking water — a critical public good. A transition protects this essential resource.