

**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:**

Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC)

Ahold Delhaize

ALDI Einkauf SE & Co. oHG

ALDI SOUTH Group

AP7 (Sjunde AP-fonden)

Aquascot Ltd.

Asda Stores Ltd.

BIAZA

The Big Prawn Company  
British Retail Consortium  
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes  
Co-op Switzerland  
The Co-operative Group  
Cranswick plc  
Donau Soja  
EdenTree Investment Management  
Greggs plc  
Hilton Food Group  
Iceland Foods  
KLP Kapitalforvaltning AS  
Legal & General Investment Management  
Lidl Stiftung  
Marks & Spencer  
METRO AG  
Migros  
Moy Park  
National Pig Association  
New England Seafood International (NESI)  
Ocado Retail  
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

Woolworths Group