

# EU negotiators reach provisional agreement to ban products made with forced labor

Negotiators from the EU Parliament and Council have reached a provisional agreement on new regulations banning products made with forced labor from entering the EU market

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□ European Union Parliament in Brussels, Belgium. Credit: areporter / Shutterstock

Negotiators from the European Parliament and Council have reached a provisional agreement on new regulations banning products made with forced labor from entering the EU market.

It stipulates that suspected cases of forced labor will be thoroughly investigated, and if confirmed, the products will be withdrawn from the market. You can read the full [statement here](#).

The agreement comes after a journalistic investigation by the Ocean Outlaw Project detailed links between alleged forced labor and illegal fishing activities in China with significant buyers in the US and EU, first focused on the [Muslim Uyghur minority](#) and then [North Koreans](#).

Under the proposed regulations, national authorities or the EU Commission will conduct investigations into suspected forced labor in supply chains in cases involving third countries.

If forced labor is found to have been used, authorities can demand the removal of relevant goods from the EU market, with penalties for non-compliance. However, companies demonstrating the elimination of forced labor from their supply chains may be permitted to reintroduce their products to the market.

Key features of the agreement include the establishment of a forced labor portal to enforce the rules and facilitate cooperation among authorities. Additionally, the Commission will compile a list of high-risk goods and areas prone to state-imposed forced labor, guiding investigations and import/export procedures.

Co-rapporteurs Samira Rafaela and Maria-Manuel Leitao-Marques hailed the agreement as a significant step in combating forced labor and upholding human rights in global supply chains.

The agreement awaits final approval from the European Parliament and Council before implementation, with EU countries given three years to adopt the new rules.

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