

## Legal opinion<sup>1</sup> on the EUDR module of Optchain™, the solution developed by Optel Vision Inc.

The Regulation 2023/1115 of the European parliament and of the Council of 31 May 2023 on the making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation (hereinafter “**EUDR**”) aims to prohibit the placing on the market or exportation from the European market products which contributed to deforestation or forest degradation after 31 December 2020.

The EUDR will come into effect on 30 December 2025 with a 6-month extension (i.e. 30 June 2026) for microenterprises as well as small and medium size enterprises (SMEs). This regulation is applicable to seven commodities (cattle, cocoa, coffee, oil palm, rubber, soya and wood) and products made out of these. These commodities and their derivative products (hereinafter “**Relevant Products**”) can only be made available on the European market or exported from the latter providing that the three following provisions are met (EUDR, Article 3):

- “deforestation-free”;
- compliance with the relevant legislation of the country of production;
- registered through a due diligence statement (hereinafter “**DDS**”).

To make sure these criteria are met, companies subject to the EUDR (hereinafter “**Operators**”) must comply with several obligations aiming to guarantee a due diligence:

- collect information on the relevant product and its supply chain;
- analyse this information and assess the risk of the product;
- apply, the case arising, adequate risk mitigation procedures and measures to mitigate the risks to “negligible risk” or “no risk”;
- submit a DDS through the information system implemented for this purpose by the European Commission (hereinafter “**TRACES**”).

Optchain™ is a platform dedicated to the supply chain focused on the ESG compliance. It provides an “EUDR” module that eases the compliance of Operators with their obligations provided in the EUDR. Directly connected to TRACES, the “EUDR” module of Optchain™ can amend and submit DDS on behalf of its customers (1). Additionally, by directly connecting to the ERP<sup>2</sup> information system of the Operator, Optchain™ enables to perform automated analyses of the information available to assist the Operator with the risk mapping of its supply chain (2). Through a technology using artificial intelligence, Optchain™ also helps its customers to assess risks (3) as well as to establish and implement risk mitigation measures (4). Additionally, Optchain™ allows to establish and keep recapitulative documents requested by the EUDR (5).

<sup>1</sup> This legal opinion is provided upon request of Optel Vision Inc.. It relies on information made publicly available on 5 September 2025; we have not carried out any independent verification on the accuracy, exactness, completeness or authenticity of these elements, so that any inaccuracy, omission or alteration likely to have an impact on this analysis might lead to a significant modification of the expressed opinions. Likewise, our opinion is exclusively based on the Regulation 2023/1115 and its interpretation on 5 September 2025. It does not consider eventual legislative or regulatory amends, or guidelines passed afterwards and likely to alter this analysis.

<sup>2</sup> Enterprise Resource Planning

The user of Optchain™ remains the only responsible of the compliance with its obligations pursuant to the EUDR. Optchain™ is an assistance tool and cannot replace the Operator regarding the completion of its obligations and compliance with the EUDR. The use of Optchain cannot lead to any transfer of responsibility to Optel Vision Inc., Optel Group, or any other entity, director, or employee linked to this group. Moreover, Optchain™ cannot guarantee the accuracy, veracity, or that the information is up to date or the completeness of information made available that is only subject to the Operator's responsibility.

## 1. Support in the establishment and submission of DDSs

Obligation provided by the EUDR	Solution proposed by Optchain™
<p><u>Article 4.2. – Submission of DDSs</u></p> <p>Operators shall not place relevant products on the market or export them without prior submission of a due diligence statement on the dedicated information system. Such due diligence statement shall contain the information set out in Annex II of the EUDR.</p> <p><u>Article 4.8. – Derogation for SMEs</u></p> <p>SMEs ('SME operators') shall not be required to exercise due diligence or submit statements for Relevant Products for which a DDS has already been submitted. In such cases, SME shall provide the reference number of the already existing DDS to which they are referring.</p> <p><u>Article 6. – Mandate for submission of the DDS</u></p> <p>Operators may mandate an authorised representative in the EU to submit the DDS on their behalf through a written mandate. In such cases, operators shall retain responsibility for the compliance of their DDS.</p>	<p>Optchain™ is directly and independently connected to TRACES.</p> <p>Through Optchain, OPTEL can directly submit DDSs on behalf of its customers as an authorised representative via its own TRACES account<sup>3</sup>. Moreover, Optel can submit DDSs as a simple technical service provider via TRACES IDs of the customer.</p> <p>Optchain™ can also retrieve data from the previous DDSs issued by its customers with the aim of revising a document or for an audit.</p> <p>Optchain™ is an exchange platform allowing Operators to retrieve their supplier's DDSs – including for tiered supply chains – via Optchain™ to mention them in their own DDS. They can be retrieved providing that the supplier submitted a DDS, provided the Operator with the reference and verification numbers of this DDS, and that this information has been uploaded in Optchain™ system.</p> <p>Moreover, Optchain™ processes error messages from TRACES. It identifies, registers and processes these errors, when possible.</p> <p>Optchain™ can amend DDSs that have already been submitted to update, rectify or delete them.</p>
<p><u>Article 4.7. – Provision of the DDS number further down the supply chain</u></p> <p>Operators shall communicate to operators further down the supply chain information proving the due diligence and the reference number of the DDSs.</p>	<p>Optchain™ allows to link each Relevant Product made available on the market by the Operator with the corresponding DDS number. The communication of the DDS number to the upstream stakeholders of the chain is therefore easier.</p> <p>Optchain™ was notably designed to ease interactions between stakeholders as well as the secure communication of data between Operators and suppliers.</p>

<sup>3</sup> Optel Group GmbH is incorporated in the European Union, in Germany (Am Lenzenfleck 17, 85737 Ismaning)

## 2. Support in collecting data on the supply chain

Obligation provided by the EUDR	Solution proposed by Optchain™
<p><u>Article 9.1. – Collecting information on the Relevant Products</u></p> <p>Operators shall collect, organise and keep for five years information, documents and data demonstrating the compliance of the Relevant Products, which include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a description of the products (trade name, type, common name of the species and the full scientific name for wood, list of relevant commodities or products contained therein or used);</li> <li>the quantity of the products;</li> <li>the country of production and, where relevant, parts thereof;</li> <li>the geolocation of all plots of land where the products were produced (or establishments where the cattle were kept) as well as the date or time range of production; any deforestation or forest degradation shall automatically disqualify the placing or exportation;</li> <li>the name, postal address and email address of the suppliers;</li> <li>the name, postal address and email address of the business, operator that have been supplied;</li> <li>verifiable information that the products are deforestation-free;</li> <li>verifiable information that the commodities have been produced in accordance with the relevant legislation.</li> </ol> <p><u>Article 9.2. – Making information available for authorities</u></p> <p>The operator shall make available to the competent authorities upon request the information, documents and data collected.</p>	<p>Optchain™ helps the Operator to establish a traceability of its supply chain.</p> <p>Optchain™ is equipped with an automated data integration system allowing to gather all the available information on the whole supply chain to help the Operator to collect mandatory information related to the suppliers.</p> <p>Therefore, Optchain™ is designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- automatically integrate data provided by operators or its collaborators (web sites, products, geolocation, documents...),</li> <li>- and cross-check them with external sources in certain situations. For instance, the geolocation data (coordinates and polygons) related to the production area can be correlated with external data bases from satellites to identify the presence or absence of deforestation at these coordinates or in these polygons based on the production dates of the products.</li> </ul> <p>The information collected is recorded in registers created and held by Optchain™, which allows operators to comply with their obligation to keep data but also to disclose it in the event of an audit.</p> <p>In any case, the Operator is the only party responsible of the veracity of the data, as Optchain™ relies on the data available in its system.</p> <p><i>1. Upstream Traceability (information a, b, c, d, e)</i></p> <p>Providing that the traceability of the Relevant Product is possible and that the required information is available, Optchain™ can link a product to its geographic origin through data collection tools.</p>

	<p>The traceability guaranteed by Optchain™ relies on the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the data declared by the suppliers,</li> <li>- the production batches or units links provided by actors of the chain,</li> <li>- addition of geolocations related to the production sites,</li> <li>- and integration of available external data.</li> </ul> <p>Optchain™ notably collects GPS coordinates, information on suppliers and detailed production files.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the complete traceability until the origin fully depends on the availability, the reliability and the continuity of the data provided by the different actors. Optchain™ does not create links if they do not exist.</p> <p><i>2. Internal traceability</i></p> <p>Optchain™ enables to link each product entering the chain of the Operator with the corresponding exiting product that is made available on the market by the Operator.</p> <p><i>3. Downstream traceability (information f)</i></p> <p>Optchain™ links the product made available on the market with the purchaser by associating the corresponding DDS number.</p> <p><i>4. Information relating to compliance (g and h)</i></p> <p>This information is collected within the scope of the risk assessment as detailed below (3.).</p>
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### 3. Risk assessment

Obligation provided by the EUDR	Solution proposed by Optchain™
<p><u>Articles 10.1., 10.2. et 10.3. – Risk assessment</u></p> <p>Operators must assess the non-compliance risk of the Relevant Products before placing it on the</p>	<p>Optchain™ integrates a technology using artificial intelligence allowing to analyse the data</p>

<p>market or exporting it. Operators shall not place the relevant products on the market or export them, except where the risk assessment reveals no or only a negligible risk. The assessment is based on these elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the assignment of risk to the relevant country of production;</li> <li>b) the presence of forests in the country of production;</li> <li>c) the presence of indigenous peoples in the country of production;</li> <li>d) the consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples;</li> <li>e) duly reasoned claims by indigenous peoples regarding the areas of production;</li> <li>f) prevalence of deforestation or forest degradation;</li> <li>g) source, reliability and validity of the gathered information;</li> <li>h) concerns in relation to the country of production (corruption, data falsification, violation of rights, conflicts, sanctions, etc.);</li> <li>i) complexity of the supply chain;</li> <li>j) risk of circumvention of the EUDR or of mixing with relevant products of unknown origin or produced in areas impacted by deforestation;</li> <li>k) conclusions of the meetings of the Commission expert groups;</li> <li>l) substantiated concerns;</li> <li>m) information pointing a risk;</li> <li>n) complementary information on compliance.</li> </ul> <p>The operators shall document and review the risk assessments on an annual basis and make them available to the competent authorities upon request.</p>	<p>collected and to identify the risk categories starting from negligible to high.</p> <p>Optchain™ also enables to collect and keep the information relating to the risk assessment in order to allow the Operator to comply, the case arising, with its obligation to present these documents to the competent authorities.</p> <p>Optchain™ helps the Operator to take decisions and collect information based on the gathered available data, however it does not proceed to the legal qualification of the risk pursuant to the criteria of the EUDR, the responsibility of which lies with the Operator.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>1. Regarding deforestation (a, b, f risks)</i></p> <p>Optchain™ directly assesses the risks related to deforestation by cross-checking the geographical data available on the origin of the Relevant Product with an artificial intelligence using satellite imagery to determine the areas affected by deforestation, the protected areas and lands of indigenous people. Therefore, Optchain™ enables to assess the compliance of the geolocations related to the origin of the Relevant Products.</p> <p>For this purpose, Optchain™ uses a satellite verification technology to assess the deforestation risks related to the geolocation of the products subject to the EUDR.</p> <p>This technology performs a convergence of evidence based on open and approved spatial data bases for deforestation monitoring (for instance, EC JRC Forest Cover, Hansen Global Forest Change, WRI Tropical Tree Cover Extent, Tropical Moist Forest (JRC), data bases of commodities plantations).</p> <p>This analysis relates to polygons corresponding to the origin of the Relevant Products cross-checked with spatial data and regulatory criteria. Pursuant to the EUDR, the system is using the year 2020 as a cut-off date and compares if, between 2020 and the relevant date for the analysis, a loss of forest cover as qualified by the EUDR can be observed.</p>
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	<p>To reduce the errors leading to the identification of false inaccuracies, (also called “false positives”) notably related to imprecise spatial or geographical data, the system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- automatically reports certain zones presenting risks of false positives to the Operator;</li> <li>- integrates additional data;</li> <li>- enables the use of approved maps provided by the Operator.</li> </ul> <p>As for complex supply chains where the geolocation is not exact, Optchain™ provides analyses of larger zones (on a municipal or regional scale) to rapidly identify zones presenting high risks.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>2. Legal risks (h)</i></p> <p>Optchain™ assesses the compliance with environmental, human rights and anti-corruption standards of the country of production of the Relevant Product through a 3-level method:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- assessment based on the risks using public indicators and a risk mapping of EU;</li> <li>- self-assessment questionnaires for suppliers to share information on their processes;</li> <li>- external audit performed by a third-party – appointed by the Operator – in the field for any risk identified as non-negligeable. Once all the results of these audits are included in the Operator’s system, Optchain™ centralises, processes the results and links them to each entity of the relevant supply chain.</li> </ul> <p>Hence, these tools enable the Operator to gather the information required for risk assessment. However, the Operator is fully responsible of the assessment and the results of Optchain™’s analysis cannot be considered as a comprehensive analysis.</p>
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#### 4. Risk mitigation

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<p><u>Article 11.1. – Risk mitigation</u></p> <p>Except where a risk assessment reveals that there is no or only a negligible risk, the operator shall, prior to placing the Relevant Products on the market or exporting them, adopt risk mitigation measures to achieve no or only a negligible risk, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) requiring additional information, data or documents;</li> <li>b) independent surveys or audits;</li> <li>c) taking measures pertaining to information requirements;</li> <li>d) supporting the suppliers, in particular smallholders.</li> </ul> <p>The decisions on risk mitigation measures shall be documented, reviewed on an annual basis and made available by the operators to the competent authorities upon request.</p>	<p>Optchain™ carries out an analysis of risks or identified non-compliance and is able to hierarchise them to propose an action plan to mitigate them.</p> <p>Optchain™ notably works with reputed audit offices to ensure the compliance and the access to assessments as well as experts' certifications to satisfy the strict regulatory requirements.</p> <p>Once the action plan is implemented by the Operator, Optchain™ proactively supervises its implementation and keeps records that are constantly available for audits.</p> <p>The Operator remains responsible for the establishment and the effective implementation of the action plan. The action plan proposed by Optchain™ must be appreciated by the customer given its global activity. Optchain™ cannot replace the Operator to appreciate the internal measures aiming to mitigate risks.</p>

#### 5. Documentation obligations

Obligation provided by the EUDR	Solution proposed by Optchain™
<p><u>Article 12. – Establishment and maintenance of due diligence systems, reporting and record keeping</u></p> <p>Operators shall establish and keep up to date a due diligence system to ensure of the compliance of the Relevant Products. The system is reviewed on an annual basis and updated in case of new events in an update register that is kept for five years.</p> <p>Operators that do not fall within the categories of SMEs, including microenterprises, or natural persons shall publish a report including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a summary of the information collected;</li> <li>- the conclusions of the risk assessment and measures undertaken with description of the evidence used;</li> <li>- where applicable, a description of the process of consultation of indigenous peoples, local</li> </ul>	<p>Optchain™ keeps registers that are always available for audits. These registers enable to centralise the data and the documents required for the three sections of the due diligence, subject to the information available or provided by the Operator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- collection of information (art. 9 of the EUDR);</li> <li>- risk assessment (art. 10 of the EUDR);</li> <li>- provide at any moment an auditable file in the event of an audit from competent authorities.</li> </ul> <p>Optchain™ helps to keep registers and collect information thanks to the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- uploading of any type of document by the Operator;</li> </ul>



<p>communities and other holders of land rights holders or of the civil society organisations.</p> <p>Operators shall keep for five years all documentation related to due diligence. They shall make that documentation available to the competent authorities upon request.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- linking any document with a traceable element of the supply chain;</li><li>- issuance of summary reports per level (batch, supplier, collection campaign, etc.);</li><li>- archiving of documents containing proof of selection or rejection;</li><li>- automatic creation of traceability or compliance documents per items/products sheets.</li></ul> <p>Afterwards, the Operator is responsible for the collection and verification of the information. The Operator must ensure that its documentation obligations pursuant to EUDR are satisfied.</p>
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*Thomas Rouhette, Partner, and Jennifer Melo, Associate, at Signature Litigation Paris.*