

Question for written answer E-003405/2026

to the Commission

Rule 144

Beatrice Timgren (ECR), Dick Erixon (ECR), Charlie Weimers (ECR)

Subject: Rewetting of peatlands – impact on preparedness and food security

The Nature Restoration Regulation requires the restoration of drained peatlands in agricultural use, but permits flexibility when rewetting would have considerable negative consequences for, inter alia, infrastructure, climate adaptation and other public interests.¹

A Swedish government report refers to the importance of peat as a growing medium and states that horticultural peat is the dominant raw material for the production of forest plants and that satisfactory substitute materials are not yet available in the volumes and quality that are required for all applications.² At the same time, the Commission's own preparedness strategy stresses that disruption in the supply chains for energy, food and critical raw materials can have serious consequences for the Union.³

In light of the above:

1. How will the Commission ensure that Sweden's restoration plan will not disproportionately reduce the availability of domestically produced horticultural and energy peat?
2. Does the Commission consider that food supply, energy preparedness and domestic value chains can be covered by 'other public interests' in Article 11.4?
3. Will the Commission take account of the effects on competitiveness, energy preparedness and food chains when it submits views on national measures?

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¹ Nature Restoration Regulation, Article 11.4, OJ L, 2024/1991, 29.7.2024.

² SOU 2026:18 Odlingstörv och klimatet, p. 38.

³ European Commission, JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS on the European Preparedness Union Strategy, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025JC0130>.