

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001725/24
to the Commission
César Luena (S&D)
(16 September 2024)**

Subject: Implementation of the LULUCF Regulation

According to the report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the operation of Regulation (EU) 2018/841 (LULUCF Regulation), implementation of the regulation is not on track.

At a time when difficulties are compounded by climate change, the flexibilities established by the LULUCF Regulation are important. Of particular importance is the flexibility regarding the long-term impact of climate change, with the obstacles it poses to creating and maintaining carbon sinks and, therefore, meeting the regulation's ambitious targets.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission believe that the EU's carbon removal target for 2030 will be met, and what steps does it intend to propose and implement if the target is not met?
2. Given that one of the conditions for using climate flexibility is that the EU meets its target, has the Commission decided what to do if the removal target is not met and that flexibility cannot be used?
3. When does the Commission intend to submit a delegated act to establish how that flexibility can be used?

Submitted: 16.9.2024

**Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(8 November 2024)**

Reducing the release of greenhouse gases and increasing removals from the land sector will be crucial to deliver on our collective objective to reach climate neutrality by 2050. As such, the revised Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) regulation ⁽¹⁾ is an important step on the way.

The regulation sets out an EU wide target to increase land-based net removals by an additional 42 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent by 2030. This collective ambition increase is distributed between Member States, requiring all Member States to adopt additional national policies for the land sector.

Ultimately, the further integration of the land sector into our climate policy framework should assist farmers, foresters and other stakeholders in building new sustainable business models. The Carbon Removal Certification Framework will be an important enabler in this regard.

Many Member States are still in the process of identifying and adopting the necessary set of policies and measures to put the EU on track towards the collective 2030-target, as demonstrated by the updated National Energy and Climate Plans ⁽²⁾. The Commission is in close dialogue with Member States to encourage and facilitate the exchange of best practices.

The land use flexibility mechanism includes *inter alia* additional compensation for natural disturbances, as well as a flexibility linked to long-term effects of climate change, subjected to the EU, as a whole, meeting its 2030 target.

The Commission is currently preparing the implementing act setting out the structure, format, technical details and submission process of the evidence related to this flexibility in consultation with Member States and strives towards a swift adoption in the next months.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2018/841 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on the inclusion of greenhouse gas emissions and removals from land use, land use change and forestry in the 2030 climate and energy framework, and amending Regulation (EU) No 525/2013 and Decision No 529/2013/EU.

⁽²⁾ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions EU wide assessment of the draft updated National Energy and Climate Plans An important step towards the more ambitious 2030 energy and climate objectives under the European Green Deal and RePowerEU COM/2023/796 final.