

EN
E-002007/2024
Answer given by Mr Hoekstra
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.1.2025)

Achieving climate neutrality by 2050 requires ambitious policies by all Member States across all sectors.

The revised Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) regulation aims to reduce emissions and increase removals from the land sector. Collectively, the EU has set a target to increase net removals by 42 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalents (MtCO₂eq), delivering a sink of -310 MtCO₂eq by 2030. This increased ambition is distributed between Member States based on their share of the total area of managed land in the EU.

Providing renewable raw material for a circular and sustainable bioeconomy is one important contribution of the land sector in attaining the climate objectives and enabling a green transition. Land practices that generate healthy, biodiverse and resilient forests and soils are a prerequisite to ensure long term, viable access to both these resources and ecosystem services. This is why the Commission is engaging in close dialogue with Member States that are now in the process of revising their land use policies, such as in the context of the National Energy and Climate Plans.

The LULUCF regulation includes flexibilities which take into consideration specific circumstances in Member States. Part of the general flexibilities includes transferring surpluses between the Effort Sharing Regulation and the LULUCF. Other flexibilities take into account the need to support Member States experiencing natural disturbances such as forest fires or pests, or have a disproportionate share of organic soils.

Building on the recently launched evaluation of the LULUCF regulation¹, the Commission will explore potential options for integrating the land use sector into the EU's climate policy framework to implement the forthcoming 2040 target.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14227-EU-rules-on-land-use-land-use-change-and-forestry-LULUCF-evaluation_en