

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001628/25
to the Commission
Katri Kulmuni (Renew)
(23 April 2025)**

Subject: Closer-to-nature forest management

In July 2023, the Commission published voluntary guidelines on ‘closer-to-nature’ forest management. The guidelines state: ‘The text might not necessarily reflect the views of all the listed individual authorities and organisations since it includes compromise drafting for areas on which views in the group significantly diverged’.

The guidelines do not represent a consensus-based agreement on closer-to-nature forest management practices and should not be referenced or incorporated in EU legislation, and do not sufficiently account for the diversity of forest types and forest management approaches across the Member States. They largely promote continuous cover forestry, which does not necessarily support carbon sequestration in all forest types.

According to the EU forest strategy, the Commission will develop a voluntary certification scheme based on these guidelines.

1. What is the current status of the development of this scheme, and what specific need is it intended to address?
2. Will the Commission link this initiative to the Carbon Removal Certification Framework or the development of nature credits?
3. How will the Commission ensure that the ‘closer-to-nature’ forest management guidelines — which do not represent the views of all contributing authorities and organisations — remain entirely voluntary and are not incorporated into EU legislation or legally binding EU frameworks as such?

Submitted: 23.4.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(17 June 2025)**

The voluntary guidelines on Closer to Nature Forest (CNF) Management ⁽¹⁾ aim to promote biodiversity-friendly and adaptive forest management for forest multifunctionality and climate change resilience without neglecting socioeconomic benefits.

They reflect the various forest management practices in the EU and include region specific chapters on challenges and opportunities for implementing CNF objectives, principles and tools in different forest types and forestry approaches.

The guidelines were prepared with a broad consultation of relevant stakeholders and active co-authorship of the Forest and Nature Working Group.

The Commission is currently exploring all follow up options, including in relation to incentives for nature-positive actions and private investments such as nature credits.

⁽¹⁾ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/2d1a6e8f-8cda-11ee-8aa6-01aa75ed71a1>.