

EN

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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(26.8.2025)

1. Considering the importance of addressing consistently the dual challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change, the restoration of biodiversity should take into account the deployment of renewable energy and vice versa. It should be possible to combine restoration activities and the deployment of renewable energy projects, wherever possible, including in renewables acceleration areas and dedicated grid areas. Under Article 14(13) of the Nature Restoration Regulation¹ Member States are required to coordinate the development of their national restoration plans with the mapping of areas that are required to fulfil their 2030 renewable energy target and the designation of renewables acceleration and dedicated infrastructure areas, and to promote synergies. Member States have until 1 September 2026 to submit their draft national restoration plans, which will then be assessed by the Commission.

2. Member States have flexibility to choose and prioritise areas for restoration in their national restoration plans, in particular for the 2030 targets. The determination of the most suitable areas for restoration measures shall be based on the best available knowledge and the latest scientific evidence, in line with the provisions of the Nature Restoration Regulation.

3. The Commission does not have competences to issue such recommendation. It is to be underlined that all renewable energy projects must comply with EU environment legislation, as well as with the rules on Renewable Energy Sources permitting, laid down in the revised Renewable Energy Directive².

¹ Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2024 on nature restoration and amending Regulation (EU) 2022/869, OJ L, 2024/1991, 29.7.2024.

² Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, OJ L 328 21.12.2018, p. 82, amended by Directive (EU) 2023/2413 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 October 2023, OJ L, 2023/2413, 31.10.2023.