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Answer given by Mr Hoekstra
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission recognises that climate action needs to go together with competitiveness and a just transition. Delivering on the EU's climate targets requires a swift decrease in greenhouse gas emissions in all sectors. Improving management of peatlands offers significant potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and restoring biodiversity.

The Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming (CRCF) Regulation¹ sets up a voluntary certification framework for measuring, reporting, and verifying climate benefits and linked biodiversity benefits, including a peatland specific methodology planned for early 2026. The Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR)² requires national restoration plans to aim at optimising the ecological, economic and social functions of ecosystems as well as their contribution to the sustainable development of the relevant regions and communities.

In order to support the uptake of measures, it is crucial to engage with key stakeholders and take account of regional specificities. CRCF methodologies are being developed in close consultation with an Expert Group that ensures broad stakeholder representation. The NRR includes several provisions enabling Member States to promote support schemes for stakeholders such as landowners involved in restoration.

The Commission is aware that fair climate action in sensitive landscapes requires flexibility and stakeholder engagement. The CRCF connects landowners with companies, investors, consumers and governments to support high quality climate action, while providing biodiversity co-benefits. Under the NRR, Member States are required to incentivise rewetting where appropriate and facilitate access to training and advice.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/3012/oj/eng>.

² <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1991/oj>.