

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004307/25
to the Commission
Martin Günther (The Left)
(3 November 2025)**

Subject: The Roadmap towards nature credits and a prohibition on the use of nature credits to offset environmental damage elsewhere

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) business and biodiversity platform, biodiversity offsets are ‘measurable conservation outcomes designed to compensate for adverse and unavoidable impacts of projects, in addition to prevention and mitigation measures already implemented’ ⁽¹⁾.

On 23 September 2025, Mr Humberto Delgado Rosa, Director for Biodiversity at the Commission’s Directorate General for Environment, told the Parliament’s Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) that nature credits ‘cannot be used to justify harm elsewhere’ and also that the Commission is ‘very firm’ and ‘not willing to engage on offsetting’.

However, the Commission’s roadmap towards nature credits, published by on 7 July 2025 does not explicitly mention ‘offsets’ or ‘offsetting’. Despite the 23 September 2025 comments by the Director of DG Environment at the Parliament’s ENVI Committee, the roadmap does not explicitly exclude nature credits from being used as biodiversity offsets in the sense of the IUCN definition above as compensation mechanisms for damage elsewhere.

1. What specific definition of offsetting is the Commission using in relation to nature credits and biodiversity in light of the 23 September 2025 statements by the Director of DG Environment as cited above?
2. Will the Commission confirm that it intends to prohibit the use of nature credits certified according to any future EU framework or regulation for offsetting purposes which would permit biodiversity destruction in one area to be compensated by conservation or restoration measures elsewhere?

Submitted: 3.11.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(8 January 2026)**

As indicated in the Roadmap towards nature credits ⁽¹⁾, the Commission is currently setting up a dedicated expert group to support the Commission in designing reliable metrics, high integrity methodologies and operating market infrastructure for the development of nature credits.

Among its first tasks, the Expert Group will help developing on a common definition of key concepts for nature credits, adapted to the European context.

¹ <https://iucn.org/resources/issues-brief/biodiversity-offsets>.
⁽¹⁾ COM/2025/374 final of 7.7.2025.