

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000008/26
to the Commission
Hilde Vautmans (Renew), Olivier Chastel (Renew), Benoit Cassart (Renew)
(5 January 2026)**

Subject: Impact of LULUCF Regulation on the availability of horticultural peat

Peat is crucial for European greenhouse growers, supporting the production of vegetables, fruit, mushrooms, ornamental plants and tree seedlings. It is foundational to resource-efficient greenhouse horticulture, reducing the need for water, fertilisers and pesticides, while ensuring high-yield harvests. Peat enables the use of other organic materials such as bark and wood fibre. Without reliable access to horticultural peat, European growers face higher costs, lower output, and diminished global competitiveness. As a domestic resource, peat enhances the EU's strategic autonomy by reducing reliance on imported growing media. Just 0.2% of the EU's peatlands are used for horticultural peat production.

Existing greenhouse gas models under the LULUCF Regulation ⁽¹⁾ do not accurately account for horticultural peat, treating it similarly to energy peat despite differences in usage, decomposition and post-use impact. This misclassification threatens the availability of peat for horticultural use.

To ensure the continued availability of horticultural peat, it is essential that the Commission scientifically evaluates the emissions of all growing media and maintains access to this critical agricultural input.

1. How will the Commission ensure the LULUCF Regulation does not harm horticultural peat production?
2. Will the Commission revise greenhouse gas emission models to differentiate horticultural peat from energy peat?
3. How will the Commission support indoor horticulture and inputs like horticultural peat in future policies?

Submitted: 5.1.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(6 March 2026)**

1. Regulation (EU) 841/2018 ⁽¹⁾ sets an EU-wide net removals target in 2030, aiming to increase the EU's net removals by about 15% and reverse declining trends. This EU target means that Member States must meet binding net carbon removal national targets, leading to a better performance of the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector. Member States are responsible for implementing the appropriate policies and measures to achieve these targets.
2. The accounting of greenhouse gas emissions and removals across all sectors, including LULUCF, are based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Guidelines ⁽²⁾ as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change or the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.
3. While the Commission advocates for protecting and rewetting of peatlands, as an effective way to curb greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resilience towards the risks of floods, droughts, and fires, the replacement of peat with other materials can pose challenges in the horticultural sector. To take account of such challenges, the Commission is for example considering specific provisions regarding the use of peat in growing media under the afforestation methodology currently under discussion in the Expert Group on Carbon Removals in the context of the regulation (EU) 2024/3012 ⁽³⁾.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2018/841 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on the inclusion of greenhouse gas emissions and removals from land use, land use change and forestry in the 2030 climate and energy framework (OJ L 156, 19.6.2018, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/841/oj>).

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/841/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Volume 4 'Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use'.

⁽³⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202403012.