

EN

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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(2.3.2026)

The Nature Restoration Regulation¹ sets the target of stopping the loss of urban green space and tree canopy cover from 2024 to 2030, and then it stipulates that there should be an increase from 2030 onwards until a satisfactory level is reached. The level that is 'satisfactory' will be set based on guidelines to be established by the Commission by 2028. In the implementation process the Commission will also discuss with the national authorities the most effective means to support urban areas with significant deficits in green space.

The Italian recovery and resilience plan (RRP)² includes several investments in urban forestation, climate adaptation and sustainable regeneration of towns and cities. In particular, these include measures to protect green areas and increase their number with the objective of both preserving and enhancing biodiversity and increasing the quality of life of the inhabitants of those areas (i.e., Investment 3.1 of Mission 2 Component 4). Another set of measures (i.e., Investment 4, 5, and 6 of Mission 5 Component 2) aim to regenerate and revitalise large degraded urban areas through, inter alia, the renovation, reuse, and repurpose of public urban areas.

The descriptions of the actions implementing the above-mentioned measures are included in the Council Implementing Decision³ and monitored and assessed by the Commission, in line with the performance-based nature of the Recovery and Resilience Facility⁴ Instrument. However, the selection of specific projects and their territorial distribution is the responsibility of the relevant Italian authorities, who are also responsible for ensuring that the actions are completed within the RRP implementation timeframe.

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 https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/italys-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en.

³ ST 15106/25 ADD 1 - Annex to the Council Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Italy.

⁴ https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility_en.