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Answer given by Ms Zaharieva
on behalf of the European Commission
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The EU has no legal definition for ‘geoengineering’. The Convention on Biological Diversity stated[1] that ‘[…] any technologies that deliberately reduce solar insolation or increase carbon sequestration from the atmosphere on a large scale that may affect biodiversity […] should be considered as forms of geo-engineering […].’ The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) referred to geoengineering as ‘a broad set of methods and technologies that aim to deliberately alter the climate system in order to alleviate the impacts of climate change. Most, but not all, methods seek to either (1) reduce the amount of absorbed solar energy in the climate system (Solar Radiation Management) or (2) increase net carbon sinks from the atmosphere at a scale sufficiently large to alter climate (Carbon Dioxide Removal). Scale and intent are of central importance. […] Geoengineering is different from weather modification and ecological engineering, but the boundary can be fuzzy[2]’.

Due to the rather broad scope and variable interpretation of ‘geoengineering’, it is not possible for the Commission to provide a comprehensive list of projects addressing geoengineering concepts, the entities involved in them or their scientific objectives.

Depending on the scope and interpretation of ‘geoengineering’, information on specific projects funded under the Research and Innovation Framework Programmes, and the entities benefitting from them, can be extracted from the Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS)[3].

[1] Decision *X/33*. Biodiversity and climate change https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop?id=12299.
[2] https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/ipcc_wg3_ar5_annex-i.pdf, page 1262.
[3] https://cordis.europa.eu/projects/en.