

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002105/26
to the Commission
César Luena (S&D)
(20 May 2026)

Subject: Financing biodiversity conservation and nature restoration

Environmental degradation and biodiversity loss are increasing the EU's vulnerability to climate-related and natural disasters, with growing impacts on health, food security and economic resilience. The Nature Restoration Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2024/1991) is a key step towards restoring degraded ecosystems and strengthening Europe's resilience.

However, biodiversity protection and restoration remain largely underfunded, while the Commission appears to place increasing emphasis on market-based instruments such as nature credits. At the same time, concerns persist that harmful subsidies and offset-based projects could continue to undermine EU environmental objectives.

1. How will the Commission ensure adequate and dedicated funding for the implementation of the Nature Restoration Regulation and broader EU biodiversity objectives under the next multiannual financial framework?
2. How will the Commission ensure that the development of a nature credits framework complements, rather than replaces, sufficient public funding for nature restoration and biodiversity protection?
3. With its proposed performance regulation, the Commission aims to mainstream the 'do no significant harm' principle across the next EU budget. In the light of this, how will the Commission address environmentally harmful subsidies and prevent nature credits or compensation schemes from undermining the integrity of EU environmental legislation?

Submitted: 20.5.2026

Answer given by Ms Jessika Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(17 July 2026)

The Commission proposals for the 2028-2034 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) ⁽¹⁾ reinforce support to climate and environmental objectives through a legally binding 35% climate and environment spending target covering climate mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, water, pollution prevention and circular economy.

Implementation of the Nature Restoration Regulation ⁽²⁾ is to be supported in particular via the National and Regional Partnership Plans ⁽³⁾, which must be consistent with national restoration plans.

The EU facility is set to provide continuity to LIFE activities under the EU programme for the environment and climate action ⁽⁴⁾ for strategic nature projects, strategic integrated and strategic action projects, environmental governance, enforcement networks and civil society.

Innovative tools, including nature credits, may help mobilise private finance and complement public funding, subject to robust safeguards against greenwashing.

By rewarding nature positive actions, nature credits may constitute additional revenue streams for land and sea stewards, and retribute the social value of nature restoration and biodiversity protection.

Nature credits can be combined with upstream public support to incentivise project holders and derisk investments. An expert group was established to support the Commission's exploratory work on nature credits, ensuring full alignment with high-level principles such as ecological integrity, transparency and permanence of biodiversity outcomes.

The 'do no significant harm' principle in the proposed MFF performance framework will be supported by a proportionate guidance to ensure that EU spending does not undermine environmental objectives.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/eu-budget-2028-2034_en.

⁽²⁾ 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.

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/budget/eu-budget-2028-2034-explained/investing-people-member-states-and-regions_en.

⁽⁴⁾ LIFE, Regulation (EU) 2021/783 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE), and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013, OJ L 172, 17.05.2021, p.53.