

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002686/26
to the Commission
Katri Kulmuni (Renew)
(29 June 2026)**

Subject: Future integration of the CRCF into the EU climate architecture and its implications for forest management and the bioeconomy

There are indications that the Commission may be planning to integrate the Carbon Removal Certification Framework (CRCF) into the post-2030 EU climate architecture.

In this context:

1. Can the Commission clarify how it justifies linking a voluntary framework to future climate policy obligations, given that the instrument was negotiated and agreed as voluntary and that its overall effectiveness has not yet been evaluated? At present, there remains considerable uncertainty as to whether the delegated acts and draft methodologies will meaningfully contribute to enhancing carbon sinks or product-based carbon storage.
2. Moreover, how does the Commission intend to avoid creating de facto regulatory obligations for forest management practices and biomass sustainability through the implementation of the CRCF? Such a development would appear to go against the Commission's simplification objectives as well as the Member States' competence in the field of forest policy.
3. Finally, if the integration of the CRCF into the EU climate architecture is being considered, does the Commission envisage a comprehensive reassessment of the delegated acts to ensure that they are fit for purpose, proportionate and aligned with the objective of promoting a competitive bioeconomy, including the availability of raw wood material?

Submitted: 29.6.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(19 August 2026)**

The Commission is committed to promoting a circular bioeconomy as an important enabler for the EU's transition towards climate neutrality.

Healthy soils and forests will be essential to secure sustainable, long-term access to biomass and biogenic carbon, in particular in the face of the increasing impacts of climate change.

In the context of reviewing the role for national targets for the post-2030 framework the Commission is therefore also considering how to further promote investments in carbon removals and improving the resilience of the EU land sector, including by promoting the voluntary Carbon Removal and Carbon Farming (CRCF) market.

The amended EU Climate Law underlines the need for enhanced flexibility within and across sectors and instruments to support the achievement of the 2040 target in a simple and cost-effective way.

The Commission is working towards a proposal for national climate targets in the fourth quarter of 2026, which will be accompanied by a thorough impact assessment.

The Commission will also assess opportunities for simplification and reduced administrative burden, including on implementing and delegated acts.

The aim of a voluntary CRCF market is to mobilise additional investments into improved land management practices as well as carbon storage in products and permanent removals.

To date, methodologies for the certification of permanent removals and carbon farming activities (e.g. rewetting of peatlands and afforestation) have been adopted, building on current EU legislation and best practice. These contain provisions on monitoring and reporting obligations, sustainability as well as quantification of carbon removed and stored.
