

EN

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Answer given by Ms Roswall  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(2.9.2026)

The Commission recognises that the preparation and implementation of national restoration plans (NRP) may have practical implications in Member States, including for land-use choices, sectoral planning and, depending on national implementation, for permitting processes, businesses and investment. However, the Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR)<sup>1</sup> does not create a new permitting regime. It leaves to Member States to align the implementation of the Regulation with existing frameworks, including the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive<sup>2</sup> and the Birds and Habitats Directives<sup>3</sup>, as well as with existing national tools and procedures, including permitting. The NRR also requires Member States to involve stakeholders in NRP preparation, to ensure it fits local circumstances and to support affected stakeholders if relevant. This should allow Member States to integrate restoration obligations in a coherent manner while reducing administrative burden.

The NRR provides for a stepwise process. After submission of a draft NRP by 1 September 2026, the subsequent assessment of the draft by the Commission<sup>4</sup> and its observations are intended to support a constructive dialogue with Member States and may lead to further refinements of the NRP before its finalisation by September 2027. NRPs may also be reviewed thereafter<sup>5</sup>. In this context, the Commission does not intend to extend the deadline for submitting draft NRP but will continue to support Member States in finalising and implementing them as committed in its communication Simplifying for sustainable competitiveness<sup>6</sup>. Nature restoration is an urgent but continuous process thus it is in the interest of the resilience and competitiveness of the EU not to delay it further.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, OJ L 26, 28.1.2012, p. 1–21, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014, OJ L 124, 25.4.2014, p. 1–18.

<sup>3</sup> Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds, OJ L 20, 26.1.2010, p. 7–25.; and Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7–50.

<sup>4</sup> In accordance with Article 17 of the Nature Restoration Regulation.

<sup>5</sup> In accordance with Article 19 of the Nature Restoration Regulation.

<sup>6</sup> [https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/simplification-administrative-burdens-environmental-legislation\\_en](https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/simplification-administrative-burdens-environmental-legislation_en).