

EN

E-003405/2026

Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(29.10.2026)

The Commission is aware of challenges of replacing peat in some horticultural uses. EU-funded research, such as Horizon 2020 Organic-PLUS¹, has examined alternative growing-media components and ways to reduce peat reliance.

The Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR)² does not set targets for peat extraction or production. Article 11(4) requires Member States to restore organic soils in agricultural use constituting drained peatlands (at least 30% by 2030, 40% by 2040 and 50% by 2050) with minimum shares to be rewetted (at least a quarter by 2030 and a third by 2040 and 2050). Peat extraction sites are not subject to these targets, although Member States may choose to restore or rewet them and count them towards the Article 11(4) targets.

As outlined in the Vision for agriculture and food³, food production is a key strategic sector for the Union. This is reinforced by Articles 1(1) and 11(1) of the NRR, which acknowledge the importance of food security, rural socio-economic needs and sustainable agricultural production.

Under Article 17, the Commission will assess Sweden's draft plan against Articles 15 and 4 to 13 and its contribution to Article 1 objectives. It will consider socio-economic impacts, links with the national energy and climate plan and food security. Synergies between the NRR, the EU Bioeconomy Strategy⁴ and the potential of the Swedish forestry sector were also highlighted in the Commission reply to written question E-002211/2026.

¹ Phasing out contentious inputs from organic – and conventional – agriculture. Organic-PLUS. Grant agreement ID: 774340. <https://cordis.europa.eu/article/id/442663-phasing-out-contentious-inputs-from-organic-and-conventional-agriculture>.

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 COM(2025) 75 final. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0075>.

⁴ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/bioeconomy-strategy_en.