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Climate Action

Land use and forestry regulation for 2021-2030

Under EU legislation adopted in May 2018, EU Member States have to ensure that greenhouse gas emissions from land use, land use change or forestry are offset by at least an equivalent removal of CO₂ from the atmosphere in the period 2021 to 2030.

The Regulation on the inclusion of greenhouse gas emissions and removals from land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) into the 2030 climate and energy framework was adopted by the Council on 14 May 2018, following the European Parliament vote on 17 April 2018.

The Regulation implements the agreement between EU leaders in October 2014 that all sectors should contribute to the EU's 2030 emission reduction target

[\[https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/strategies/2030_en\]](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/strategies/2030_en), including the land use sector.

It is also in line with the Paris Agreement [\[https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/international/negotiations/paris_en\]](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/international/negotiations/paris_en)

, which points to the critical role of the land use sector in reaching our long-term climate mitigation objectives.

EU's commitment

The Regulation sets a binding commitment for each Member State to ensure that accounted **emissions from land use are entirely compensated** by an equivalent removal of CO₂ from the atmosphere through action in the sector. This is known as the “**no debit**” rule.

Although Member States already partly undertook this commitment individually under the Kyoto Protocol [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/strategies/progress/kyoto_2_en] up to 2020, the Regulation enshrines the commitment for the **first time in EU law** for the period 2021-2030.

Moreover, the **scope is extended** from only forests today to all land uses (and including wetlands by 2026).

The new rules provide Member States with a framework to incentivise **more climate-friendly land use**, without imposing new restrictions or red tape on individual actors.

This will help **farmers** to develop climate-smart agriculture practices and support **foresters** through greater visibility for the climate benefits of wood products, which can store carbon sequestered from the atmosphere and substitute for emission-intensive materials.

Biomass

Emissions of biomass used in energy will be recorded and accounted towards each Member State's 2030 climate commitments, through the correct application of accounting in LULUCF.

This breakthrough addresses the earlier broad criticism that emissions from biomass in energy production were not accounted for under previous EU law.

As forest management is the main source of biomass for energy and wood production, more robust accounting rules and governance for forest management will provide a solid basis for Europe's future renewables policy after 2020.

Improved accounting methodology

The LULUCF Regulation

- simplifies and upgrades the current **accounting methodology** under Decision No 529/2013/EU and the Kyoto Protocol
- establishes a new **EU governance process** for monitoring how Member States calculate emissions and removals from actions in their forests
- broadens the **scope of accounting** to cover all managed land within the EU, using more recent benchmarks for performance – and thereby improving accuracy of the accounts.

Ensuring fair and cost-effective achievement of targets

The Regulation allows some flexibility for Member States.

For instance, if a Member State has net emissions from land use and forestry, they can **use allocations** from the [Effort Sharing Regulation](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/effort/proposal_en) [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/effort/proposal_en] to satisfy the "no debit" commitment.

Moreover, Member States can **buy and sell net removals** from and to other Member States. This can encourage Member States to increase CO₂ removals beyond their own commitment.

On the other hand, a Member State may choose to **enhance removals or reduce emissions** in the LULUCF sector, thereby helping compliance of the agriculture sector in the Effort Sharing Regulation where emissions from fertilizer and livestock are accounted.

Stakeholder input

Stakeholders were involved at various stages in the development of this proposal.

Consultations were carried out in 2015, including:

- Written consultation
[<http://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/consultations/consultation-climate-and-energy-policies-until-2030>] on the Green Paper: A 2030 climate & energy framework [<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52013DC0169>]
- Written consultation
[https://ec.europa.eu/clima/consultations/articles/0026_en]
[https://ec.europa.eu/clima/consultations/articles/0026_en] on addressing greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture and LULUCF in the context of the 2030 EU climate and energy framework

Following these consultations and the analysis of EU climate policy targets for 2030, the Commission carried out an impact assessment [<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52016SC0249>].

The public had the possibility to provide feedback on the legislative proposal [<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2016:0479:FIN>] after it was adopted by the European Commission. A summary [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/clima/files/docs/pages/summary_lulucf_stakeholder_feedback] of the feedback

[\[http://ec.europa.eu/assets/clima/Feedback.zip\]](http://ec.europa.eu/assets/clima/Feedback.zip) was presented to the European Parliament and the Council.