













Procedure file

| Basic information | |
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| <p>COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation</p> <p>2022/0195(COD)</p> | Awaiting Parliament's position in 1st reading |
| <p>Nature restoration</p> <p>Subject 3.70 Environmental policy 3.70.01 Protection of natural resources: fauna, flora, nature, wildlife, countryside; biodiversity</p> <p>Legislative priorities Joint Declaration 2022 Joint Declaration 2023-24</p> | |

| Key players | | | |
|---------------------|--|--|------------|
| European Parliament | Committee responsible | Rapporteur | Appointed |
| |  Environment, Public Health and Food Safety |  LUENA César | 12/07/2022 |
| | | Shadow rapporteur  SCHNEIDER Christine  RODRÍGUEZ RAMOS María Soraya  PAULUS Jutta  VONDRA Alexandr  WALLACE Mick | |
| | Committee for opinion  Fisheries (Associated committee) | Rapporteur for opinion  ROOSE Caroline | 15/09/2022 |
| |  Regional Development | The committee decided not to give an opinion. | |
| |  Agriculture and Rural Development (Associated committee) |  SANDER Anne | 10/11/2022 |

Key events

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| 22/06/2022 | Legislative proposal published | COM(2022)0304 | Summary |
| 04/07/2022 | Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading | | |
| 24/11/2022 | Referral to associated committees announced in Parliament | | |
| 27/06/2023 | Vote in committee, 1st reading | | |
| 28/06/2023 | Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading | A9-0220/2023 | Summary |
| 11/07/2023 | Debate in Parliament |  | |
| 12/07/2023 | Decision by Parliament, 1st reading | T9-0277/2023 | Summary |
| 12/07/2023 | Matter referred back to the committee responsible | | |

Technical information

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| Procedure reference | 2022/0195(COD) |
| Procedure type | COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) |
| Procedure subtype | Legislation |
| Legislative instrument | Regulation |
| Legal basis | Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 192-p1; Rules of Procedure EP 57 |
| Mandatory consultation of other institutions | European Economic and Social Committee European Committee of the Regions |
| Stage reached in procedure | Awaiting Parliament's position in 1st reading |
| Committee dossier | ENVI/9/09481 |

Documentation gateway

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|--|-------------------------------|------------|-----|---------|
| Legislative proposal | COM(2022)0304 | 22/06/2022 | EC | Summary |
| Document attached to the procedure | SEC(2022)0256 | 23/06/2022 | EC | |
| Document attached to the procedure | SWD(2022)0167 | 23/06/2022 | EC | |
| Document attached to the procedure | SWD(2022)0168 | 23/06/2022 | EC | |
| Committee draft report | PE737.282 | 06/12/2022 | EP | |
| Amendments tabled in committee | PE740.827 | 25/01/2023 | EP | |
| Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report | CES5504/2021 | 25/01/2023 | ESC | |
| Amendments tabled in committee | PE740.821 | 26/01/2023 | EP | |

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| Amendments tabled in committee | | PE740.822 | 26/01/2023 | EP | |
| Amendments tabled in committee | | PE740.823 | 26/01/2023 | EP | |
| Amendments tabled in committee | | PE740.824 | 26/01/2023 | EP | |
| Amendments tabled in committee | | PE740.825 | 26/01/2023 | EP | |
| Amendments tabled in committee | | PE740.826 | 26/01/2023 | EP | |
| Amendments tabled in committee | | PE738.769 | 31/01/2023 | EP | |
| Committee of the Regions: opinion | | CDR4206/2022 | 09/02/2023 | CofR | |
| Committee opinion | AGRI | PE740.652 | 24/05/2023 | EP | |
| Committee opinion | PECH | PE738.472 | 26/05/2023 | EP | |
| Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading | | A9-0220/2023 | 28/06/2023 | EP | Summary |
| Text adopted by Parliament, partial vote at 1st reading/single reading | | T9-0277/2023 | 12/07/2023 | EP | Summary |

Nature restoration

PURPOSE: to lay down rules at EU level on the restoration of ecosystems to ensure the recovery to biodiverse and resilient nature across the EU.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: despite EU and international efforts, biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystems continue at an alarming rate, harming people, the economy and the climate. The EU has so far failed to halt the loss of biodiversity. It did not meet the voluntary target to restore at least 15% of degraded ecosystems by 2020.

The 2022 IPCC report in particular highlighted that the world and Europe have a brief, rapidly closing window to secure a liveable future, as the rise in weather and climate extremes has led to some irreversible impacts as natural and human systems are pushed beyond their ability to adapt. It calls for the implementation of urgent actions for the restoration of degraded ecosystems, to mitigate the impacts of climate change, notably by restoring degraded wetlands and rivers, forest and agricultural ecosystems.

Recent geopolitical developments have further highlighted the need to safeguard food security and the resilience of food systems.

More decisive action is therefore needed to achieve the EU's climate and biodiversity objectives for 2030 and 2050 and to ensure the resilience of food systems.

The proposal implements Europe's commitment in the Biodiversity Strategy 2030 to lead the way in reversing biodiversity loss and restoring nature. It paves the way for the restoration and preservation of a wide range of ecosystems in the EU by 2050, with measurable results by 2030 and 2040. It is the EU's key contribution to the ongoing negotiations on a post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be adopted at the Convention on Biological Diversity COP15 in Montreal from 7 to 15 December this year.

In its [resolution](#) of 9 June 2021, the European Parliament welcomed the Commission's commitment to develop a legislative proposal on nature restoration, including binding restoration targets.

CONTENT: the proposed Nature Restoration Regulation sets out a general objective to contribute to the long-term, continuous and sustained recovery of biodiverse and resilient nature across the EU's land and sea areas through the restoration of ecosystems. This establishes a framework in which Member States will put in place restoration measures which together shall cover at least 20% of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030 and all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050.

The proposed new legislation sets targets and obligations across a broad range of ecosystems at land and sea. It builds on existing legislation but covers all ecosystems rather than being limited to the Habitats Directive and Natura 2000 protected areas, aiming to put all natural and semi-natural ecosystems on the path to recovery by 2030.

More specifically, the proposal:

- sets restoration targets for terrestrial, coastal and freshwater ecosystems and for marine ecosystems (which include other marine areas in addition to those covered by the Habitats Directive);
- sets targets to ensure no net loss and development of urban green spaces in towns, cities and suburbs. There should be an increase in the total national area of urban green space in cities and in towns and suburbs of at least 3 % of the total area of cities and of towns and suburbs in 2021, by 2040, and at least 5 % by 2050;
- includes an obligation to remove obstacles on rivers so as to transform at least 25 000 km of rivers into free-flowing rivers by 2030;

- includes an obligation to reverse the decline of pollinators and achieve an upward trend in pollinator populations to satisfactory levels. This obligation will be based on a method for monitoring pollinators;
- imposes an obligation on each Member State to achieve upward trends in a series of indicators important for biodiversity in (i) agricultural ecosystems (grassland butterfly index; common bird index; organic carbon stock in cultivated mineral soils; share of agricultural land with high diversity topographical features) and (ii) forest ecosystems (overall increase in biodiversity and positive trends in forest connectivity, deadwood, share of uneven-aged forests, forest birds and organic carbon stocks);
- provides for the implementation of restoration measures, including rewetting drained peatlands used for agriculture and peat extraction sites;
- describes the requirements for Member States' national restoration plans. Restoration measures should be strategically planned so that they are as effective as possible in contributing to the recovery of nature across the EU and to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

National plans should be developed on the basis of the best and most recent scientific evidence available.

The Commission estimates that, overall, the benefits of restoring peatlands, marshes, forests, heaths and undergrowth, grasslands, rivers, lakes and alluvial habitats, and coastal wetlands can be estimated as being in the order of EUR 1 860 billion (with costs estimated in the order of EUR 154 billion). Significant benefits are also estimated for marine and urban ecosystems, forests, agroecosystems and for pollinator restoration. For example, the value of crop pollination by insects was estimated of the order of EUR 5 billion per year in the EU.

Nature restoration

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (rapporteur: César LUENA (S&D, ES)) recommended that the European Parliament reject the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on nature restoration.

The committee rejected the proposal for a law on nature restoration as amended. The final vote was 44 to 44 against, with 0 abstentions, falling short of a majority in favour.

As a reminder, the proposal aims, as part of the Green Deal, to contribute to the long-term restoration of damaged nature in the EU's terrestrial and maritime areas, and to achieve the EU's climate and biodiversity objectives.

Nature restoration

The European Parliament adopted by 336 votes to 300, with 13 abstentions, amendments to the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on nature restoration.

A proposal to reject the Commission's proposal was defeated in plenary by 312 votes to 324, with 12 abstentions.

The matter was referred back to the committee responsible for inter-institutional negotiations.

Nature restoration targets for 2030

Members back the Commission's proposal to put in place restoration measures for at least 20% of all land and sea areas in the EU by 2030, and for all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050. The new law must contribute to meeting the EU's international commitments, in particular the United Nations Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

This Regulation lays down rules to contribute to:

- biodiverse, resilient and productive ecosystems across the Member States land and sea areas through the restoration of degraded ecosystems;
- achieving the Unions overarching objectives concerning climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, including food security, energy transition and social housing, and land degradation neutrality.

This Regulation needs to create synergies and be coherent with existing and ongoing legislation, taking into account national competences and ensure consistency and coherence with the Union legislation on among others renewable energies, plant protection products, critical raw materials, agricultural and forestry.

This Regulation only applies to ecosystems in the European territory of the Member States to which the Treaties apply.

Binding targets

The Regulation sets binding targets in seven areas of action, such as the restoration of terrestrial, coastal and freshwater ecosystems, the restoration of marine ecosystems, the restoration of urban ecosystems, the restoration of the natural connectivity of watercourses and the natural functions of adjacent floodplains, the restoration of pollinator populations and the restoration of forest ecosystems, with the aim of reversing the environmental damage caused by human activity and climate change.

Energy from renewable sources

The Regulation does not prevent new renewable energy infrastructure. Members added a new article underlining that the planning, construction and operation of installations for the production of energy from renewable sources, the connection of such installations to the grid and the related grid itself, as well as storage assets, are presumed to be in the overriding public interest.

Member States should exempt such projects from the requirement to demonstrate that there are no less damaging alternatives for the purposes of applying the derogations from the continuous improvement and non-deterioration obligations of the Regulation outside Natura 2000 sites, provided that the projects have been subject to a strategic environmental assessment or an environmental impact assessment.

National defence

Top priority must be given to activities whose sole purpose is national defence or security. When implementing restoration measures, Member States could exempt areas used for activities solely for national defence purposes, if such measures are deemed incompatible with the continued military use of the areas in question.

Review of the national restoration plans

Member States should develop national restoration plans and carry out preparatory monitoring and research to identify the restoration measures needed to contribute to the Union's objectives, taking into account the latest scientific evidence, the needs of local communities, including urban local communities, the most cost-effective measures and the socio-economic impact of those measures. Stakeholders, including landowners and land managers, should be involved at every stage of the process.

Postponement of targets

Parliament provides for the possibility to postpone the targets in the event of exceptional socioeconomic consequences. No later than one year after the date of entry into force of this Regulation and every year thereafter, the Commission should publish a notice in the Official Journal of the European Union concerning whether one or more of the following conditions apply:

- the permitting procedures in one or more Member States fall behind due to constraints from Union nature legislation regarding the following fields:
- the average food price has gone up by 10% over the period of 1 year;
- the total production of food in the Union has reduced by 5% over a period of 1 year.

Where one or more of these conditions apply, the targets under this Regulation should be postponed until all the conditions referred to in that paragraph no longer apply.

Application of the Regulation

Parliament stated that the Regulation should apply:

- from the date where the Commission has provided robust and scientific data to the European Parliament and to the Council on the necessary conditions to guarantee long term food security, thereby respecting the need of arable land under conventional and ecological agriculture, the impact of nature restoration on food production, food availability and food prices;
- from the date where the condition set out in Article 11(2a) is met. The Commission shall publish a notice in the Official Journal of the European Union indicating the date from which this Regulation applies. [Am. 136]
- once EU countries have quantified the area that needs to be restored to meet the restoration targets for each habitat type.

Assessment of financial needs

To ensure the implementation of this Regulation, adequate private and public investments for nature restoration measures are essential. Therefore, the Commission should, by 12 months from its entry into force and in consultation with Member States, present a report with an analysis identifying any gaps in implementing this Regulation. That report should be accompanied, where appropriate, by proposals for adequate measures, including financial measures to address the gaps identified, such as the establishment of dedicated funding.

Review

The Commission should evaluate this Regulation by 31 December 2030 and every two years thereafter to assess the impact of this Regulation, in particular on the agricultural sector and the supply of safe and secure food, as well as the socio-economic impacts of this Regulation, especially in rural areas.

| Transparency | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|------|------------|--|
| LUENA César | Rapporteur | ENVI | 20/09/2023 | Seas At Risk |
| LUENA César | Rapporteur | ENVI | 05/09/2023 | Permanent Representation Office of Finland to the EU |
| LUENA César | Rapporteur | ENVI | 30/08/2023 | Permanent Representation Office of Germany to the EU |
| LUENA César | Rapporteur | ENVI | 18/07/2023 | Permanent Representation Office of Spain to the EU |
| SCHNEIDER Christine | Shadow rapporteur | ENVI | 12/07/2023 | Permanent Representation of the Republic of Latvia to the EU |
| KARLESKIND Pierre | Committee chair | PECH | 11/07/2023 | Les ligneurs de la Pointe de Bretagne |
| KARLESKIND Pierre | Committee chair | PECH | 11/07/2023 | OCEANA |

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|----------------------|-------------------------------|------------|---|---|
| ROOSE Caroline | Shadow rapporteur for opinion | PECH | 29/06/2023 | European Association of Fish Producers Organisations Seas At Risk |
| ROOSE Caroline | Rapporteur for opinion | PECH | 27/06/2023 | BLOOM Association |
| ROOSE Caroline | Rapporteur for opinion | PECH | 16/06/2023 | Parc Marin de la Côte Bleue Prud'homie de pêche de Martigues MedPAN WWF France |
| | Member | 14/07/2023 | WWF Italia | |
| ARIMONT Pascal | Member | 11/07/2023 | Natagora asbl | |
| VANDENKENDELAERE Tom | Member | 11/07/2023 | BLOOM Association | |
| KARLESKIND Pierre | Member | 11/07/2023 | France Nature Environnement Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux/BirdLife France Seas At Risk | |
| MACMANUS Chris | Member | 11/07/2023 | Talamh Beo | |
| MACMANUS Chris | Member | 11/07/2023 | The Irish Natura And Hill Farmers Association | |
| MACMANUS Chris | Member | 10/07/2023 | Irish Farmers' Association | |
| DECERLE Jérémy | Member | 05/07/2023 | European Landowners' Organization asbl | |
| OMARJEE Younous | Member | 05/07/2023 | BLOOM | |
| FRITZON Helène | Member | 03/07/2023 | Världsnaturfonden WWF (WWF Sweden) | |