

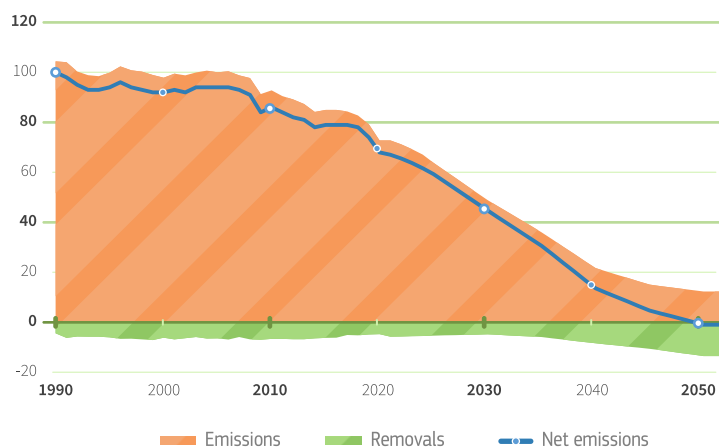


30 November 2022

DELIVERING THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL: FIRST EU CERTIFICATION OF CARBON REMOVALS

The Commission is proposing the **first EU-wide voluntary framework to reliably certify high-quality carbon removals**. This is a necessary instrument to reach the EU’s climate, environmental and zero-pollution goals. Carbon removals can and must bring clear benefits for the climate, as well as preserving or strengthening other environmental objectives.

The EU has committed to being climate neutral by 2050. This will be done by reducing greenhouse gas emissions to a minimum. It is not possible to reduce all emissions to absolute zero. Emission reductions need to be coupled with the **removal of several hundred million tonnes of CO₂** from the atmosphere every year to balance out remaining emissions.



MAIN GOALS OF THE PROPOSAL

- Accelerate** the deployment of verifiable, **high-quality carbon removals**
- Encourage industries, farmers and foresters to adopt **effective carbon removal solutions**
- Counter greenwashing, focus on high quality removals and build trust** by focusing on trustworthy removals
- Ensure the EU’s capacity to **quantify, monitor and verify** carbon removals
- Stimulate a wide variety of result-based **financing options by private or public sources**



TYPES OF CARBON REMOVALS

There are several ways to remove and store carbon. All can be certified under the EU's framework:



Carbon farming, such as restoring forests, soils, and management of wetlands and peatlands



Permanent storage, such as bioenergy with carbon capture and storage, or direct air carbon capture and storage



Carbon storage in long-lasting products and materials such as wood-based construction



Capture of fossil carbon for Storage (CCS) or Utilisation CCU) is not covered: these technologies help to recycle or store new fossil CO₂ emissions, preventing that they add to CO₂ already in the atmosphere, but do not remove carbon from the atmosphere

USE OF CARBON REMOVAL CERTIFICATES

A wide variety of business models reward carbon removals. Thanks to the EU certification framework, more businesses, farmers, foresters and other stakeholders can access these new opportunities, as they will be able to apply for harmonised and reliable certification.

- **Public funding** – e.g. Common Agricultural Policy, State Aid schemes, or the Innovation Fund
- **Private funding** – e.g. food companies which reward farmers for additional carbon removals and enhance their carbon accounting
- **Labels for sustainable building materials** e.g. construction companies or property owners investing in sustainable building materials, and labelling programmes
- **Impact finance** e.g. new income opportunities for industries deploying carbon removal technologies or developing long-lasting carbon storage products
- **Voluntary carbon markets** to raise financing for high-quality carbon removals



CRITERIA FOR A ROBUST EU CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

The EU certification framework can **only be used to certify carbon removals that meet the following QU.A.L.I.TY criteria:**



QUantification

Carbon removal activities are measured accurately and deliver unambiguous benefits for the climate



ADditionality

Carbon removal activities go beyond standard practices and what is legally required



Long-term storage

Certificates clearly account for the duration of carbon storage and distinguish permanent storage from temporary storage



Sustainabil-ITY

Carbon removal activities must support sustainability objectives such as climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, circular economy, water and marine resources

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?



Based on the EU QU.A.L.I.TY framework, the Commission, supported by an expert group, will develop **tailored certification methodologies** for the different types of carbon removal activities.

Then, **certification schemes** will certify carbon removal activities through third-party verification. The certificates will be published in transparent and interoperable registries to avoid double-counting.

HOW DOES IT WORK?



All the relevant information on the certified removals will be publicly accessible preventing the risk of double-counting and fraud, and help the providers of carbon removals to access different types of financing opportunities.

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