

**POLITICAL OPINION ON THE
PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF
THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND
OF THE COUNCIL ON NATURE
RESTORATION**

The Committee on European Affairs,

Having regard to Article 88-4 of the Constitution,

Having regard to the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on nature restoration (COM[2022] 304 final),

Having regard to Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (the "Birds" Directive),

Having regard to Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the "Habitats" Directive),

Having regard to Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a Framework for Community Action in the field of Marine Environmental Policy,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2093 of 17 December 2020 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 laying down rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the common agricultural policy (CAP strategic plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), and repealing Regulations (EU) No. 1305/2013 and (EU) No. 1307/2013,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Regulation (EU) No. 1306/2013,

Having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the European Pollinators Initiative (COM[2018] 395 final),

Having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the European Union's Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (COM[2020] 380 final),

Considering that the global framework for biodiversity conservation adopted in December 2022 at COP 15 raises global ambitions by implementing twenty-three new measures aimed at protecting 30% of the planet's land and oceans,

Considering that previous EU strategies have failed to reverse the trend in biodiversity loss,

Considering that biodiversity regulations must take account of the situation of farmers and provide for transitional aid,

Considering that the adoption of ambitious biodiversity legislation will contribute to the achievement of the EU's climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives, as well as to the fulfilment of the EU's international commitments in this area,

Considering that preserving biodiversity should make it possible to promote resilience and food security in the European Union in the medium term, for example by increasing the pollinator population and improving soil fertility,

Considering that the efforts to be made by each Member State depend on an estimate of the initial state of ecosystems, which remains partially unknown at this stage, particularly for marine environments and the outermost regions,

1. Welcomes the presentation by the European Commission of an ambitious text to halt the loss of biodiversity in the European Union,

2. Supports the general objective of covering 20% of the Union's land and sea areas with restoration measures by 2030, and all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050,

3. Calls for the ambitions of the text to be raised, by stipulating that the overall restoration target of 20% should apply separately to land and sea areas, without any possible compensation,

4. Calls for the objectives of the text to be adapted for ecosystems of unknown status in the outermost regions,

5. Stresses the importance of ensuring that the proposed regulation is consistent with the objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and of avoiding any inconsistencies that would be detrimental to the implementation of the text,

6. Stresses the importance of providing adequate financial, technical and human support for farmers and fishermen,

7. Calls for part of the measures provided for in the proposal for a regulation to be financed by increasing the target for funding biodiversity to 7.5% of the European budget from 2024, rising to

10% from 2026, in accordance with the provisions of the European Union's multiannual financial framework 2021-2027,

8. Notes that the Common Agricultural Policy budget cannot be the only lever for funding at the European level, even if its contribution is essential,

9. Insists on the need for additional European funding to achieve nature restoration objectives,

10. Hopes that the methods for reporting on the status of habitats of Community interest, as defined in particular by the 1992 Habitats Directive, will be harmonised between Member States, so as to define an objective and fair starting point for all Member States,

11. Recalls the importance of guaranteeing a proportionate administrative burden for central administrations, in particular by using clear and shared biodiversity monitoring indicators for indicators relating to agricultural and forest ecosystems,

12. Welcomes the existence of an indicator relating to the quantity of standing dead wood and of dead wood on the ground to assess the restoration of forest ecosystems, but calls for it to be modulated in such a way as to limit the risk of fire,

13. Calls on the European negotiators to review the methodology for calculating the indicator of high-diversity topographical features on agricultural land, in order to better assess the reality of the hedged area in the Member States.