

**Question for written answer E-000477/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Impact of national LULUCF removals targets on conservation and adaptation strategies

The new proposed LULUCF Regulation sets a European removals target of 310 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq and national targets.

Mediterranean ecosystems are low-emission systems with low vegetation formations, such as shrublands, which are very valuable in terms of biodiversity and are often protected by national and EU legislation.

Given that removals occur to a large extent in sync with the growth of vegetation, trees and plants, for which water resources are needed, the following questions arise:

1. How is it that the Commission believes that areas with scarce or no water resources will be able to significantly increase their sinks and removals?
2. Does the Commission not believe that forcing short-term removals in some areas may lead to the need for intensive planting and land conversion, which will affect river flows and the availability of water resources currently used for other purposes?
3. Given that targeting CO<sub>2</sub> removal alone may jeopardise complex and fragile ecosystems, the policies surrounding which are geared towards conservation rather than production, how has the Commission taken into account the balance between biodiversity and water conservation objectives and national targets for increasing CO<sub>2</sub> removals in the short term?