

**Question for written answer E-003687/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

David McAllister (PPE)

Subject: Protecting peatlands to combat climate change – only taking action on a scientific basis and after weighing up all of the negative consequences

Europe is home to an impressive variety of mires covering almost 600 000 square kilometres. The majority of the peatland areas are located in the north. The current climate change debate is very focused on peatland protection. Draining peatlands increases greenhouse gas emissions. In Germany alone, drained peatlands are responsible for a total of 7 % of all greenhouse gas emissions.

Therefore, in the public debate, some people are calling for very far-reaching measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from peatlands, such as the partial or complete rewetting of these soils.

In view of this:

1. Is it part of the Commission's climate change strategy to reduce greenhouse gases in Member States by rewetting peatlands, and does the Commission have reliable data or other knowledge bases which justify this kind of approach?
2. Has the Commission taken into account the economic consequences for private and public budgets? For example, how many privately owned homes and businesses would be affected? Or, how much would the necessary changes to transport infrastructure and infrastructural adjustments to commercial and industrial areas in Member States cost?
3. If there is no reliable data or other knowledge bases on how protecting peatlands combats climate change, is the Commission planning to fund a reliable scientific data collection?

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