

EN

P-000963/2023

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Timmermans
on behalf of the European Commission
(15.5.2023)

1. The Commission's analysis¹ as part of the proposal to revise the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Regulation identified that carbon removals in the land sector have been decreasing due to increasing harvesting rates related to wood demand and forest aging, emissions from organic soils, natural disasters and a lack of policy and financial incentives. The revised Regulation aims to stop and reverse this trend, by setting an enhanced removal target for the Union and each Member State.
2. When wood is removed from the forest, the carbon stock of the forest is reduced, which is measured against each Member State target. However, the medium to long-term evolution of the carbon stock after harvest will generally lead to forest re-growth and a carbon sink. The change in carbon removals is driven by a mix of factors: change in wood demand, share of forests reaching maturity, and natural disturbances, such as insect infestations, storms, droughts and fires.
3. The Commission proposal on the revision of the Renewable Energy Directive strengthens in a targeted manner the sustainability criteria for sustainable forest biomass. In the provisional agreement after the final trilogue, a link to policies and measures under the LULUCF Regulation was introduced. The agreement is pending the approval of the European Parliament and the Council.

¹ SWD(2021) 609 final.