



Proposal for a EU Regulation on Carbon Removals Certification

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31 March 2023*

The policy context

Climate Law

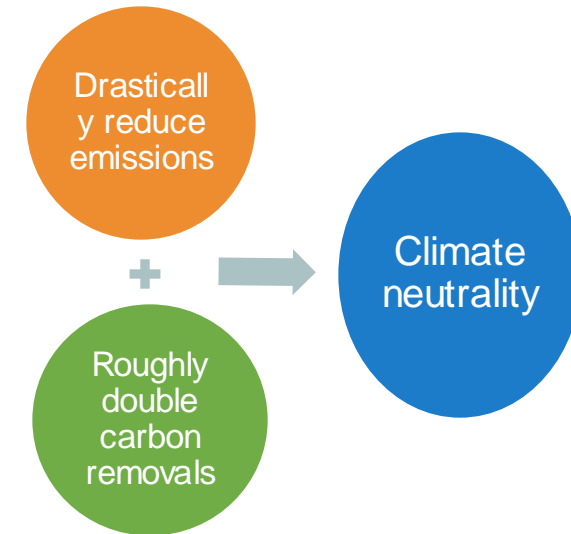
- EU objective of **climate neutrality** by 2050

Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Regulation

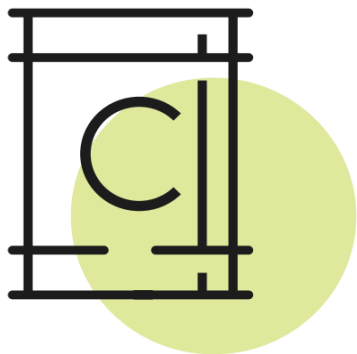
- ambitious target for net carbon removals in soils, forests and wood products: **-310 Mtonnes by 2030**

Communication on Sustainable Carbon Cycles

- roadmap to enable carbon removals:
 - **carbon farming** should contribute to 2030 target for LULUCF
 - **industrial solutions** should remove at least -5 Mtonnes in 2030



Different types of carbon removal activities



PERMANENT STORAGE

E.g. Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS), Direct Air Carbon Capture and Storage (DACCS)

Industrial leadership for climate-neutral technologies

- + Large mitigation potential
- + Permanent and additional
- Needs upfront investment

At least 5 MtCO₂ removed in 2030, and up to 200 MtCO₂ in 2050



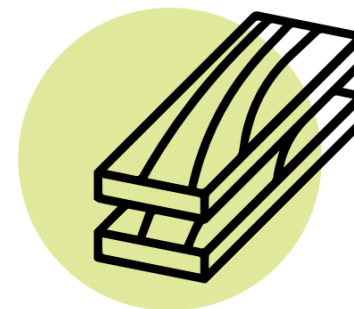
CARBON FARMING

E.g. Af-/re-forestation, improved forest management, agroforestry, soil carbon sequestration, peatland restoration

Realise strong synergies with biodiversity

- + Synergies with environment
- + Business in rural areas
- Not permanent

Contribute to LULUCF target of -310 MtCO₂ removals in 2030 and climate-positive bio-economy in 2050



CARBON STORAGE IN PRODUCTS

E.g. Use of wood-based materials in construction, long-lasting Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU)

New European Bauhaus

- + Substitute fossil materials
- + Good for bioeconomy
- Complex certification

Starting up carbon farming

Benefits



Increased carbon removals



Additional income for land managers

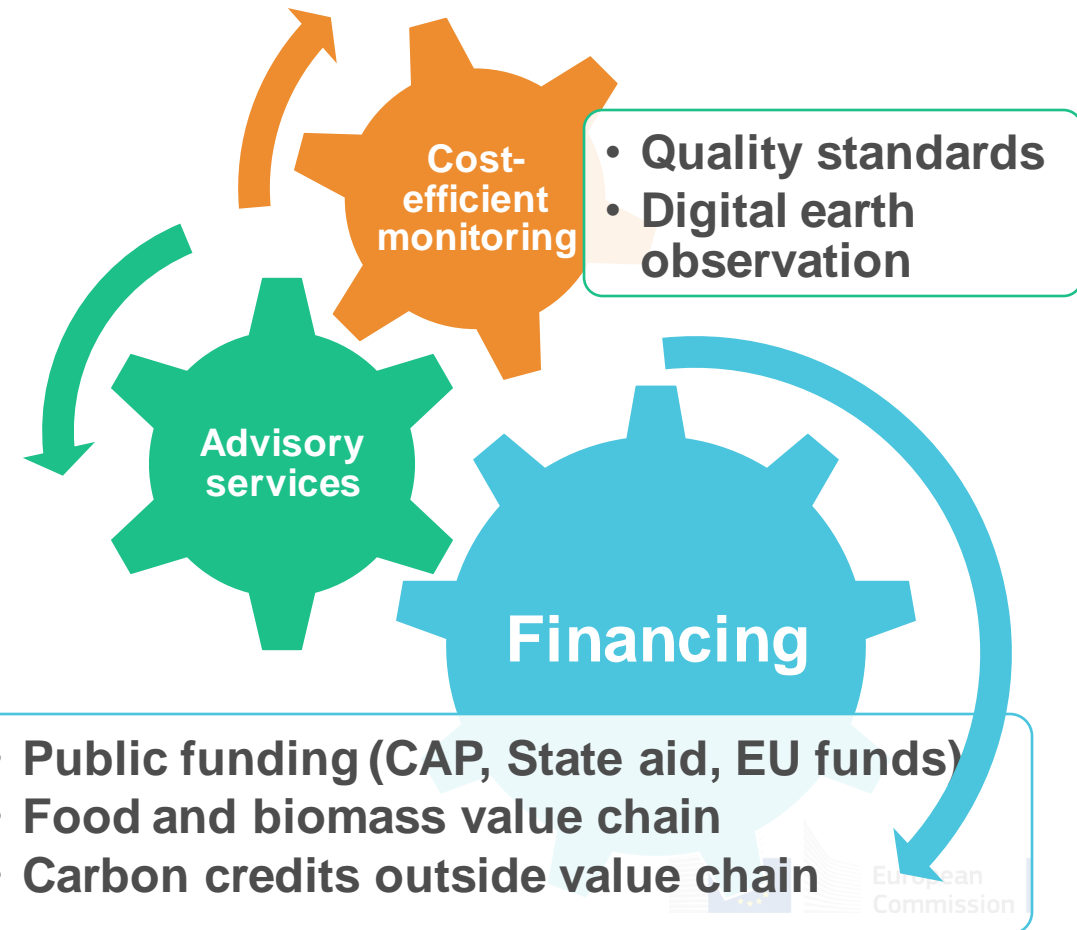


More biodiversity and nature

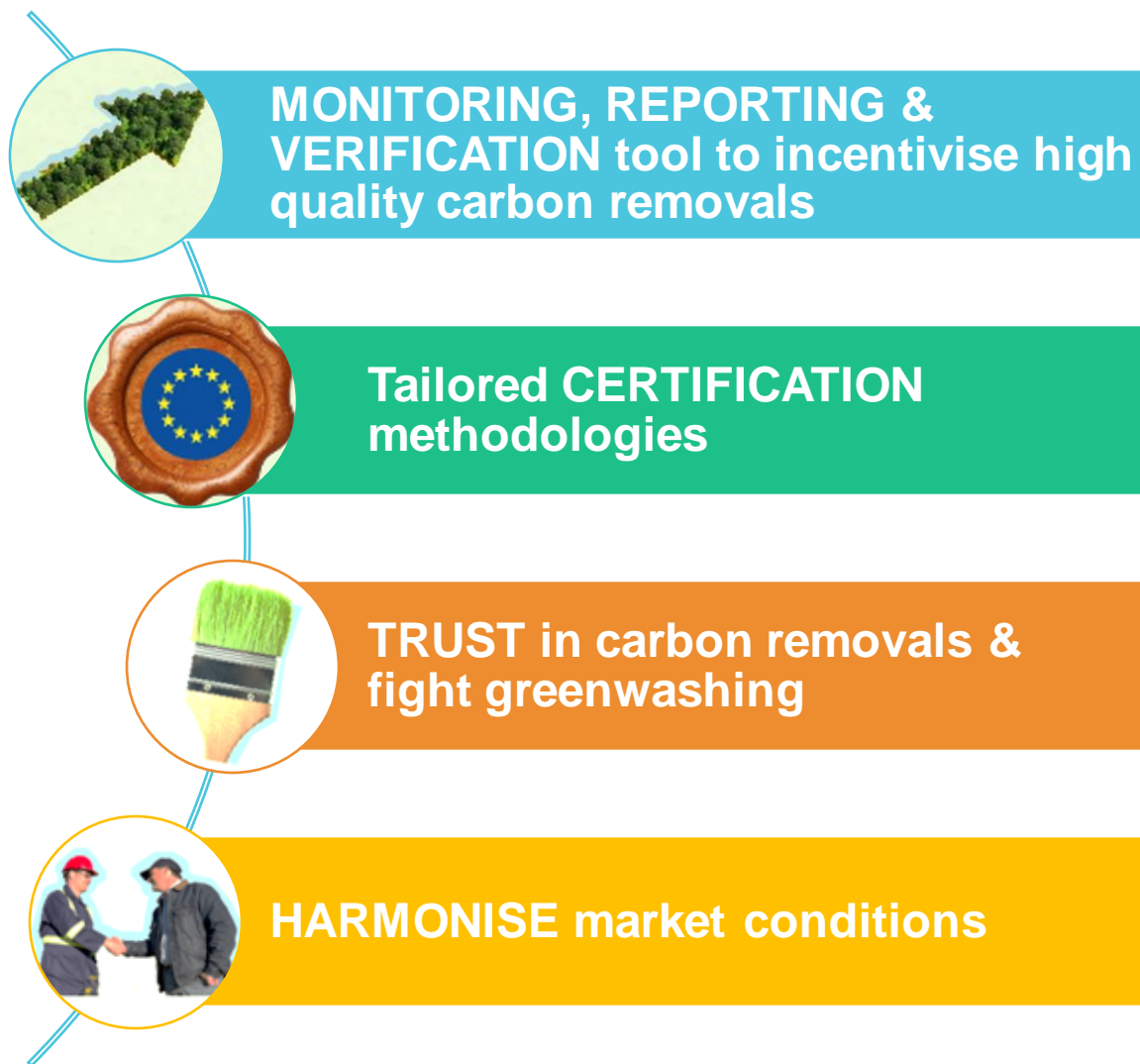


Increased climate resilience of farm and forest land

Challenges



Objectives of the CRC regulation



Legislative Proposal

Art. 1-3: General provisions

- 1: Scope
- 2: Definitions
- 3: Eligibility

Art. 4-8: Quality criteria

- 4: Quantification
- 5: Additionality
- 6: Long-term storage
- 7: Sustainability
- 8: Certification methodologies

Art. 9-14: Certification rules

- 9: Certification of compliance
- 10: Operation of certification bodies
- 11: Operation of certification schemes
- 12: Registries
- 13: Recognition by the Commission
- 14: Reporting

Art. 15-18: Final provisions

- Annex 1: content of certification methodologies
Annex 2: content of certificates

Key elements of CRC regulation

1) QU.A.L.I.TY criteria

- **QU**antification
- **A**dditionality
- **L**ong-term storage
- Sustainabil**ITY**

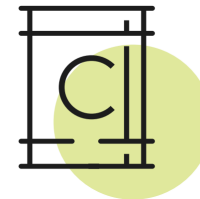
3) Certification rules

- **Third-party** verification
- **Reliable** certification schemes
- **Public** registries



2) Tailored certification methodologies

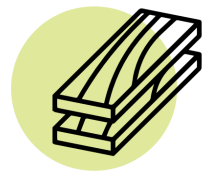
EC assisted by the **Expert Group on Carbon Removals**



PERMANENT STORAGE



CARBON FARMING



CARBON STORAGE IN LONG-LASTING PRODUCTS

QU.A.L.I.TY criteria for all carbon removals



QUANTIFICATION

- Carbon removals are accurately measured against a standardised baseline
- Taking account of supply chain emissions
- Based on international standards like GHG Protocol



ADDITIONALITY

- Carbon removal activities must go beyond:
 - ✓ standard market practices and
 - ✓ legal obligations of the individual operator
- Highly representative standardised baseline preferred – if sufficient data available. Otherwise project-specific baseline



LONG-TERM STORAGE

- Certificates clearly account for duration of carbon storage
- Rules for permanent storage building on the CCS Directive
- Temporary carbon removal units for carbon farming/storage in products expire at the end of the monitoring period



SUSTAINABILITY

- Carbon removal activities shall not harm the environment or generate co-benefits
- Certification methodologies to set minimum sustainability requirements and methods to assess co-benefits

Requirements for certification



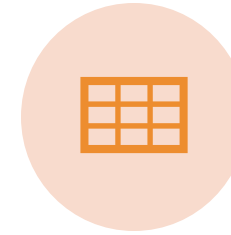
THIRD-PARTY VERIFICATION

- Requirement for verification of carbon removals by independent auditors
- Simplification for smaller farmers and foresters ('group of operators')



RELIABLE CERTIFICATION SCHEMES

- Implementation/control of compliance through (public or private) certification schemes
- Certification schemes have to be recognised by the Commission against minimum transparency and auditing standards



PUBLIC REGISTRIES OF CARBON REMOVALS

- Carbon removal units are recorded in certification registries to avoid double-counting
- Requirements for interoperability of certification registries

How does it work?

1



EU develops methodologies & recognises certification schemes

2



Operators join an EU-recognised certification scheme

3



Third-party verification of the activity

4



The activity is periodically certified

5



Certified carbon removals are recorded in registries

Next steps

1- EU framework sets out QU.A.L.I.TY criteria and certification process



Co-decision process with European Parliament and Council started after adoption of the proposal (30th November 2022)

2- Tailor-made EU certification methodologies



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

3- Certification starts



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.

Useful links

- Proposal: https://climate.ec.europa.eu/document/fad4a049-ff98-476f-b626-b46c6afdded3_en
- Impact Assessment: https://climate.ec.europa.eu/document/ab53e63b-4b85-4d28-ac67-6bd742506bae_en
- Press release: [Commission proposes certification of carbon removals \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu/presscorner/detail/en/ipr22_7159)
- Q&A: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_22_7159
- Factsheet: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/fs_22_7161
- More information on Sustainable Carbon Cycles: https://ec.europa.eu/clima/eu-action/forests-and-agriculture/sustainable-carbon-cycles_en