

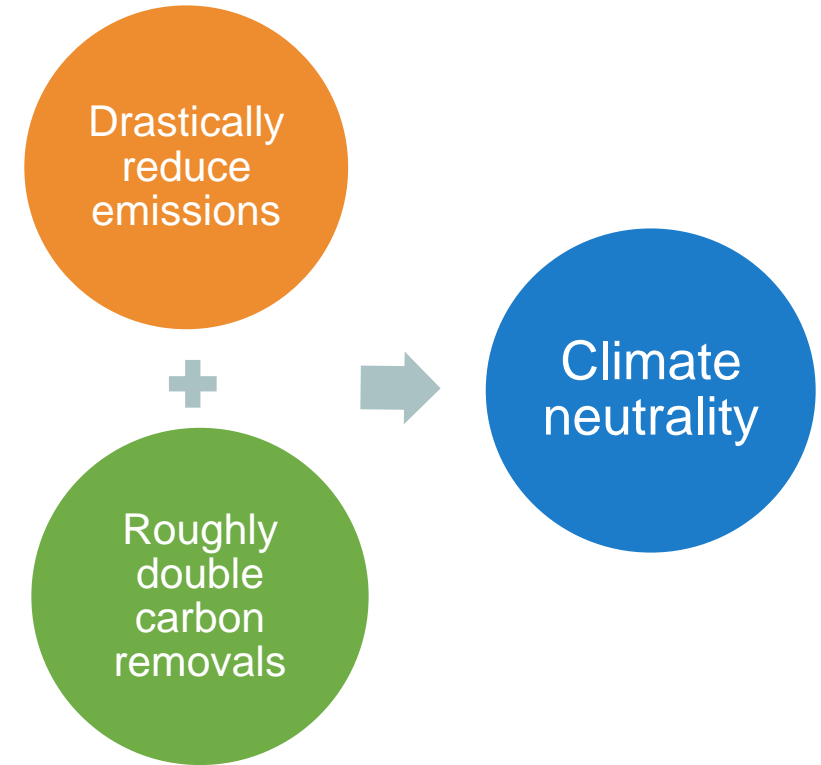
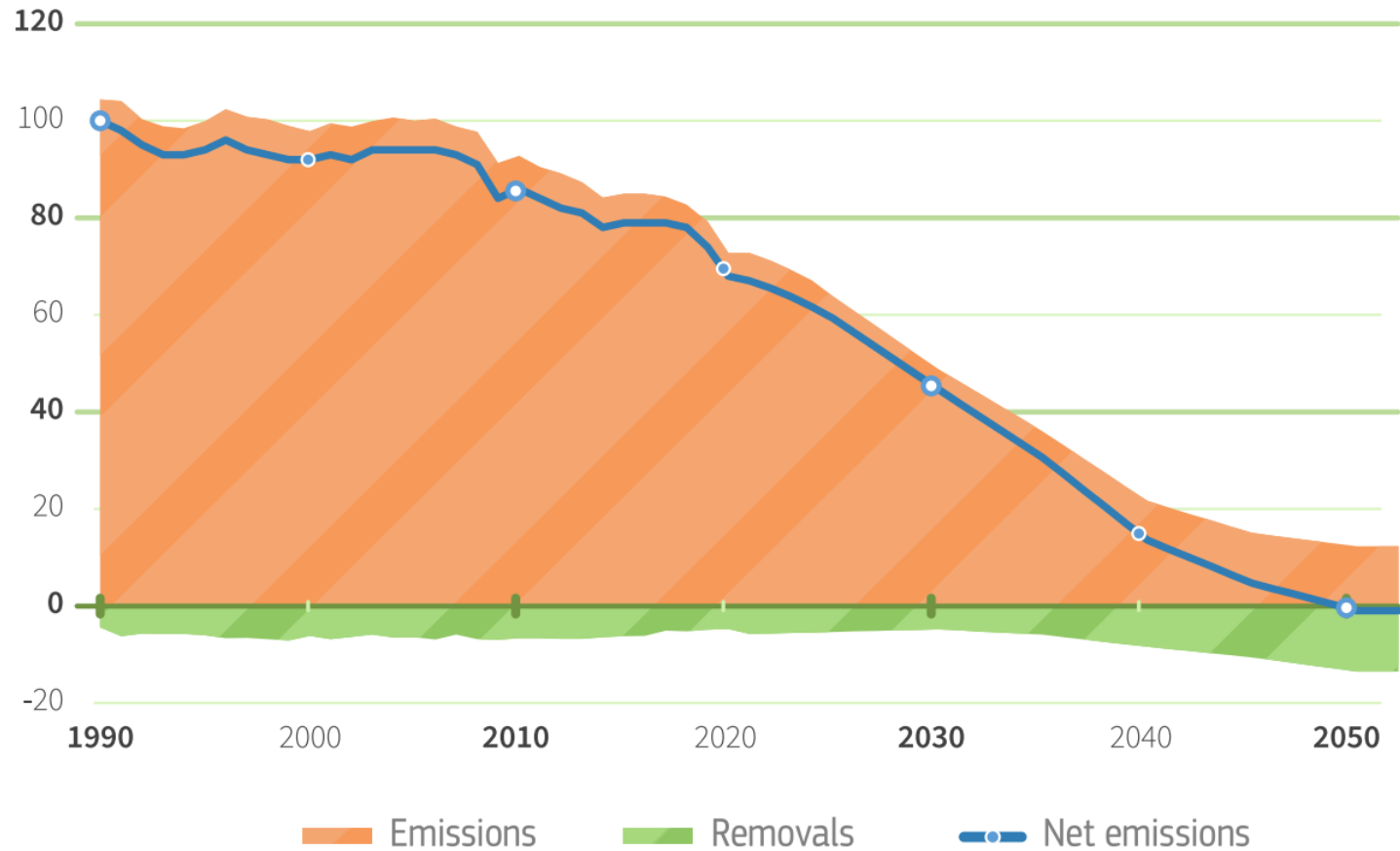


Voluntary certification of carbon removals in the EU

*Christian HOLZLEITNER, Head of Unit,
European Commission, DG CLIMA, Unit C3*

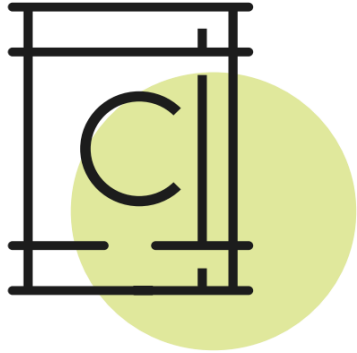
21 March 2023

Towards climate neutrality



GHG projections for climate neutrality
1990 GHG emissions = 100
Source: EU 2030 Climate Target Plan

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

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

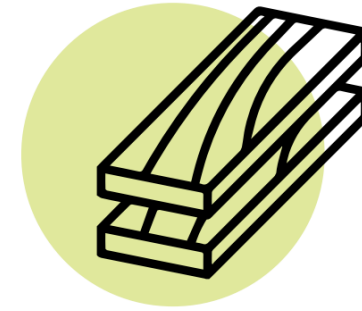


CARBON FARMING

Soil and forest activities in the scope of the LULUCF Regulation, including: Peatland restoration, agroforestry, sustainable forest management, soil carbon sequestration,

Strong synergies with biodiversity

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



CARBON STORAGE IN LONG-LASTING PRODUCTS

E.g. wood-based construction materials and other carbon-storing construction products

New European Bauhaus

Starting up carbon farming

Benefits



Increased carbon removals



Additional income for land managers

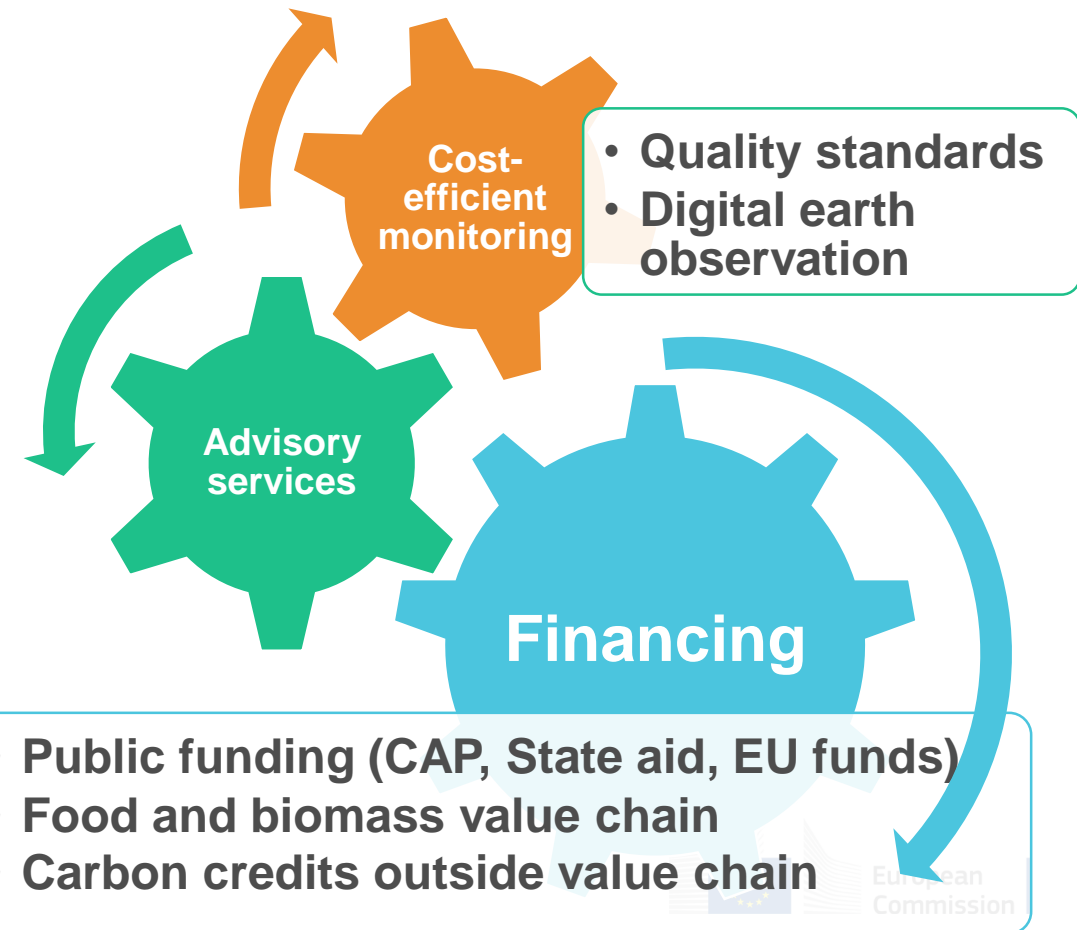


More biodiversity and nature



Increased climate resilience of farm and forest land

Challenges



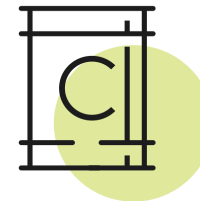
Proposed regulation on the voluntary certification of carbon removals in the EU

Principles in the framework

- QU.A.L.I.TY**
criteria
- **QU**antification
 - **A**dditionality
 - **L**ong-term storage
 - Sustainabil-**ITY**
- Credible certification**
- **Third-party** verification
 - **Public and private** certification schemes
 - **Publicly accessible** registries
 - **Comprehensive** certificate



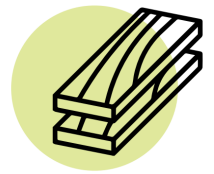
Tailored certification methodologies – to be developed together with expert group



PERMANENT STORAGE



CARBON FARMING



CARBON STORAGE IN LONG-LASTING PRODUCTS

QUALITY removal certificates enable public and private support

No regret option

- QUALITY certificates are a **tool** for monitoring, reporting, and verification of carbon removals
- **First steppingstone** towards a post-2030 policy on carbon removals

Enable early financial support

- Support carbon removals with **highest climate and sustainability benefits**
- Contribute to Member States targets
 - **LULUCF**
 - **Nature Restoration Law**
- Harmonized criteria for **public and private financing**
- Public support, including
 - Innovation Fund
 - State aid for carbon farming

Fight greenwashing

- **Corporate Sustainability Reporting**
 - Draft Sustainable Reporting Standards on Climate - [Download \(efrag.org\)](https://efrag.org)
 - *Delegated act to be adopted mid-2023*
- **Green Claims**
 - *Commission proposal planned for March 2023*

Further steppingstones towards a post-2030 EU carbon removal policy

Global Stock Take + 6 months



Climate Law

- Proposal of 2040 target

By 2025



Carbon farming

- *Art 17(2) new LULUCF Reg*
Assess options to ensure that land sector is well on track for climate neutrality
- Including implementation of Articles 6.2 and 6.4 PA

By 2026



Permanent storage

- *Art. 30 new ETS Directive*
Assess inclusion of permanent storage in ETS

By 2025



Carbon storage products

- *Art 17(3) new LULUCF Reg*
Assess inclusion in scope of LULUCF Regulation

Next steps

EU certification framework for carbon removals

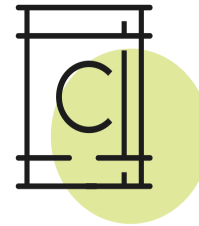
QU.A.L.I.T.Y
criteria

Credible
certification
rules



- Ongoing negotiations with Parliament and Council
- Aim for conclusion under this mandate

Tailored certification methodologies



PERMANENT STORAGE



CARBON FARMING



LONG-LASTING PRODUCTS



- First meeting of expert group on 7 March
 - Workshop on carbon farming planned for 21 and 22 June
- [Expert group on carbon removals \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu)

Where can I find more information on carbon removal certification?

- 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 \(europa.eu\)](#)
- 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
- [Expert group on carbon removals \(europa.eu\)](#)

More resources related to carbon removals

- More information on Sustainable Carbon Cycles: https://ec.europa.eu/clima/eu-action/forests-and-agriculture/sustainable-carbon-cycles_en
- Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive: [EUR-Lex - 32022L2464 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)
- Draft European Sustainability Reporting Standards – Climate Change: [Download \(efrag.org\)](#)
- New State Aid Guidelines for Agriculture and Forestry: [State aid \(europa.eu\)](#)
- [Innovation Fund \(europa.eu\)](#)
- LIFE programme: [Climate change mitigation and adaptation \(europa.eu\)](#)
- [Soil Mission \(europa.eu\)](#)

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



QUANTIFICATION

- Carbon removal activities are measured accurately and deliver unambiguous benefits for the climate
- Taking account of emissions increases
- Based on international standards like GHG Protocol



ADDITIONALITY

- Carbon removal activities go beyond standard market practices and legal obligations of the individual operator
- Highly representative standardized 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 certificates for carbon farming are possible but validity of certificate expires at the end of the monitoring period



SUSTAINABILITY

- Carbon removal activities shall not harm the environment
- Methodologies for certification of co-benefits such as biodiversity

Thank you



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