Basic information

2022/0394(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure completed
Union certification framework for carbon removals **Subject** 2.10.03 Standardisation, EC/EU standards and trade mark, certification, compliance 3.70.02 Atmospheric pollution, motor vehicle pollution **Legislative priorities** Joint Declaration 2022 Joint Declaration 2023-24	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	PEREIRA Lídia (EPP)	10/01/2023
	Shadow rapporteur WÖLKEN Tiemo (S&D) YTTERELL Emma (Renew) NIINISTÖ Ville (Greens/EFA) ZALEWSKA Anna (ECR) GRISET Catherine (ID) WALLACE Mick (The Left)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ITRE Industry, Research and Energy (Associated committee)	Chair on behalf of committee BUŞOI Cristian-Silviu (EPP)	28/03/2023
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development (Associated committee)	HLAVÁČEK Martin (Renew)	29/03/2023

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	4059	2024-11-19

European Commission	**Commission DG**	**Commissioner**
	Climate Action	TIMMERMANS Frans
European Economic and Social Committee		
European Committee of the Regions		

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
30/11/2022	Legislative proposal published	COM(2022)0672	Summary
01/02/2023	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
11/05/2023	Referral to associated committees announced in Parliament		
24/10/2023	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
03/11/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A9-0329/2023	Summary
20/11/2023	Referral to associated committees announced in Parliament		
20/11/2023	Debate in Parliament		
21/11/2023	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T9-0402/2023	Summary
21/11/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		
21/11/2023	Matter referred back to the committee responsible for interinstitutional negotiations		
11/03/2024	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations	PE759.876 GEDA/A/(2024)001377	
10/04/2024	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T9-0195/2024	Summary
10/04/2024	Results of vote in Parliament		
19/11/2024	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
27/11/2024	Final act signed		
06/12/2024	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2022/0394(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 57_o Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 192-p1
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee European Committee of the Regions
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Committee dossier	ENVI/9/10830

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE745.292	10/05/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE749.223	02/06/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE749.224	02/06/2023	
Specific opinion	ITRE	PE746.892	29/06/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE749.197	29/06/2023	
Committee opinion	AGRI	PE746.718	13/09/2023	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A9-0329/2023	03/11/2023	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, partial vote at 1st reading /single reading		T9-0402/2023	21/11/2023	Summary
Text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations		PE759.876	08/03/2024	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0195/2024	10/04/2024	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Coreper letter confirming interinstitutional agreement	GEDA/A/(2024)001377	08/03/2024	
Draft final act	00092/2024/LEX	27/11/2024	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2022)0672	30/11/2022	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2022)0423	01/12/2022	
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2022)0377	01/12/2022	
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2022)0378	01/12/2022	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2024)377	29/07/2024	

National parliaments

Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary
Contribution	NL_SENATE	COM(2022)0672	03/04/2023	

Contribution	DE_BUNDESRAT	COM(2022)0672	11/04/2023	
Contribution	ES_PARLIAMENT	COM(2022)0672	26/04/2023	
Contribution	RO_SENATE	COM(2022)0672	15/05/2023	
Contribution	PT_PARLIAMENT	COM(2022)0672	15/09/2023	
Contribution	IT_CHAMBER	COM(2022)0672	17/11/2023	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR3978/2022	08/02/2023	
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES6159/2022	22/03/2023	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency

Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
NIINISTÖ Ville	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	29/01/2024	Suomen luonnonsuojeluliitto - The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation
NIINISTÖ Ville	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	24/01/2024	European Environment Agency
NIINISTÖ Ville	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	18/01/2024	Microsoft Corporation
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	24/11/2023	Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz
WALLACE Mick	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	17/11/2023	Fern
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Rapporteur	ENVI	15/11/2023	Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung e. V.
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	13/11/2023	Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU
NIINISTÖ Ville	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	06/11/2023	Carbon Market Watch Climate Action Network Europe Fern
NIINISTÖ Ville	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	27/10/2023	Puro.earth
NIINISTÖ Ville	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	17/10/2023	Finnish Forest Industries Federation (Metsäteollisuus ry)

WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	10/10/2023	Bellona Europa Carbon Gap ASBL Clean Air Task Force, Inc.
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	27/09/2023	Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung e. V.
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	20/09/2023	Carbon Market Watch
NIINISTÖ Ville	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	20/09/2023	Carbon Market Watch
NIINISTÖ Ville	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	19/09/2023	Clean Air Task Force, Inc.
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	08/09/2023	European farmers
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	07/07/2023	Vattenfall
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	07/07/2023	Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	05/07/2023	Westenergy Oy
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	29/06/2023	Puro.earth
YTTERELL Emma	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	29/06/2023	Öresundskraft SYSAV
YTTERELL Emma	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	29/06/2023	KLIMPO Klimatpostivt & Kolsänkor AB
NIINISTÖ Ville	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	28/06/2023	Fern
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	08/06/2023	Negative Emissions Platform
NIINISTÖ Ville	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	06/06/2023	Swedish Forest Industries Federation
NIINISTÖ Ville	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	31/05/2023	Fortum Oyj
YTTERELL Emma	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	30/05/2023	Carbon Market Watch
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	30/05/2023	Carbon Market Watch Ecologic Institute Fern
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	25/05/2023	European Association of Remote Sensing Companies
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	24/05/2023	Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
NIINISTÖ Ville	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	24/05/2023	Carbon Market Watch
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	23/05/2023	Bellona Europa Carbon Gap ASBL Clean Air Task Force, Inc.
YTTERELL Emma	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	22/05/2023	Copa Cogeca
WALLACE Mick	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	17/05/2023	IATP
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	16/05/2023	Stora Enso Oyj
NIINISTÖ Ville	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	09/05/2023	Puro.earth
HOLMGREN Pär	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	AGRI	03/05/2023	European Biochar Industry Consortium
KELLY Seán	Shadow rapporteur	ITRE	03/05/2023	European Biochar Industry Consortium

YTTERELL Emma	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	25/04/2023	Jord- och skogsbruksministeriet (Finland)
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	25/04/2023	European Environmental Bureau
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	19/04/2023	Carbon Market Watch
YTTERELL Emma	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	13/04/2023	Finlands representation till EU
YTTERELL Emma	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	11/04/2023	Puro Earth
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	30/03/2023	Umweltbundesamt (UBA)
HOLMGREN Pär	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	AGRI	28/03/2023	Energiföretagen / Swedenergy
YTTERELL Emma	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	23/03/2023	Acumen Public Affairs
YTTERELL Emma	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	23/03/2023	IFOAM Orgnaics Europe
YTTERELL Emma	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	23/03/2023	Carbon Future
HOLMGREN Pär	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	AGRI	23/03/2023	Max Burgers
YTTERELL Emma	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	22/03/2023	Indigo Agriculture Europe GmbH
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	21/03/2023	Carbon Gap ASBL
YTTERELL Emma	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	21/03/2023	Kreab Worldwide
HOLMGREN Pär	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	AGRI	15/03/2023	CAN Europe
HOLMGREN Pär	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	AGRI	15/03/2023	Fern
HOLMGREN Pär	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	AGRI	09/03/2023	Max Burgers
WALLACE Mick	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	08/03/2023	iFOAM
YTTERELL Emma	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	06/03/2023	Nederländska representationen vid EU
YTTERELL Emma	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	21/02/2023	Preem AB
YTTERELL Emma	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	21/02/2023	Perstorp
YTTERELL Emma	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	20/02/2023	Södra Cell
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	09/02/2023	Rolls Royce
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	08/02/2023	Carbon Market Watch
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	08/02/2023	Clean Air Task Force
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	08/02/2023	Bellona Europa
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	08/02/2023	Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change

WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	08/02/2023	IFOAM
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	08/02/2023	Union certification framework for carbon removals
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	07/02/2023	NABU
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	07/02/2023	Breakthrough Energy
WALLACE Mick	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	06/02/2023	European Environmental Bureau
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	06/02/2023	European Biochar Industry Consortium
WALLACE Mick	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	02/02/2023	Carbon Market Watch

Other Members

Transparency

Name	Date	Interest representatives
TORVALDS Nils	17/11/2023	Confederation of European Forest Owners
SANDER Anne	13/11/2023	Gide
KATAINEN Elsi	10/11/2023	Maa- ja metsätaloustuottajain Keskusliitto – Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners
FUGLSANG Niels	21/06/2023	CCS Alliancen
FRITZON Heléne	15/06/2023	Stockholm Exergi
WÖLKEN Tiemo	07/06/2023	Microsoft Corporation
SIDL Günther	24/05/2023	Bioenergy Europe
LUENA César	06/02/2023	European Biochar Industry Consortium

Final act

Regulation 2024/3012
OJ OJ L 06.12.2024 Summary

Delegated acts

Reference	Subject
2026/2598(DEA)	Examination of delegated act
2026/2819(DEA)	Examination of delegated act

Union certification framework for carbon removals

2022/0394(COD) - 21/11/2023 - Text adopted by Parliament, partial vote at 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 448 votes to 65, with 114 abstentions, **amendments** to the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Union certification framework for carbon removals.

The matter was referred back to the committee responsible for interinstitutional negotiations.

Subject matter

The objective of this Regulation is to facilitate and encourage the deployment and enhancement of carbon removals, carbon farming and carbon storage in products by operators or groups of operators as a complement to the irreversible and gradual reduction of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors. To that end, this Regulation establishes a **voluntary Union framework for the certification of carbon removals, carbon farming and carbon storage in products**.

Rules on the issuance and use of units

A new article has been included on the rules on the issuance and use of units. It stated that carbon farming sequestration and emission reduction units should be issued by 31 December each year, provided that an annual monitoring check does not show any non-compliance with the requirements set out in this Regulation and does not show a reversal. The certification body should be responsible for the annual monitoring check based on reliable real-world data.

Sustainability

A carbon storage in product activity should at least have a neutral impact on each of, and should generate co-benefits for at least one of, the following sustainability objectives:

- the avoidance of the risk of carbon leakage in third countries;

- climate change adaptation;

- sustainable use and protection or improvement of water quality and marine resources;

- transition to a circular economy, including the efficient use of sustainably sourced bio-based materials;

- pollution prevention and control;

- protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.

Innovative carbon removal technologies

Under the EU certification framework, activities that, under normal circumstances, ensure the permanent storage of atmospheric or biogenic carbon for several centuries through geological storage of CO2, such as bioenergy with carbon capture and storage and direct air carbon capture and storage, or through permanently bound carbon mineralisation, should be considered **permanent carbon removals**.

Carbon farming and carbon storage in products

Members amended the definition of **'carbon farming'** to mean an activity related to land management, coastal management or animal husbandry, that results in carbon farming sequestration or carbon farming emission reductions **for a period of at least five years**.

Members also stated that carbon farming activities should not negatively affect the Union's food security and shall not lead to land grabbing or land speculation.

In light of the uncertainties in the measuring and monitoring methodologies related to many potential applications of carbon storage in products in early development stages, the certification of **carbon storage in products** should initially be limited to harvested wood products or materials for construction storing atmospheric and biogenic carbon stored for **at least five decades**.

Platform on Carbon Removal, Carbon Farming and Carbon Storage in Product Activities

Members called for the establishment of a Platform on Carbon removal and Carbon farming Activities which should, *inter alia*:

- advise the Commission on the technical certification methodologies, including on the minimum sustainability requirements, as well as on the possible need to update those certification methodologies;

- analyse the impact of the technical certification methodologies in terms of the potential costs and benefits of their application;

- monitor and regularly report to the Commission on trends at Union and Member State level regarding carbon removal and carbon farming.

Certification of compliance

The amended text stressed that the certification scheme should appoint a **certification body** which should conduct a certification audit to verify that the requested information is accurate and reliable. When multiple different carbon farming activities take place at farm level, the certification audits may be conducted on a single occasion.

Periodic re-certification audits should take place at least every 5 years for carbon farming activities, and at least every 10 years for other activities, following a risk-based approach.

Union registry

The Commission should establish and maintain an interoperable and public Union registry in order to ensure transparency, trustworthiness and full traceability of certificates, and to avoid the risk of fraud and double counting. All information in the Union registry should be easy to navigate and search.

Review

The Commission should assess the possible benefits and trade-offs of the inclusion of other long-lived carbon storage products based on the latest scientific evidence. By 12 months from the date of entry into force of this Regulation, the Commission should report to the European Parliament and to the Council on the establishment of Union targets for permanent carbon removals and for land-based sequestration as an integral part of the post-2030 Union climate framework.

Union certification framework for carbon removals

2022/0394(COD) - 03/11/2023 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety adopted the report by Lídia PEREIRA (EPP, PT) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Union certification framework for carbon removals.

The committee responsible recommended that the European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure should amend the proposal as follows:

Subject matter

The objective of this Regulation is to facilitate and encourage the deployment and enhancement of **carbon removals, carbon farming and carbon storage** in products by operators or groups of operators as a complement to the irreversible and gradual reduction of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors to meet the objectives and targets laid down in Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 and the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Rules on the issuance and use of units

A new article has been included on the rules on the issuance and use of units. It stated that carbon farming sequestration and emission reduction units should be issued by 31 December each year, provided that an annual monitoring check does not show any non-compliance with the requirements set out in this Regulation and does not show a reversal. The certification body should be responsible for the annual monitoring check based on reliable real-world data.

Sustainability

A carbon storage in product activity should at least have a neutral impact on each of, and should generate co-benefits for at least one of, the following sustainability objectives:

- the avoidance of the risk of carbon leakage in third countries;

- climate change adaptation;

- sustainable use and protection or improvement of water quality and marine resources;

- transition to a circular economy, including the efficient use of sustainably sourced bio-based materials;

- pollution prevention and control;

- protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.

Platform on Carbon Removal, Carbon Farming and Carbon Storage in Product Activities

Members called for the establishment of a Platform on Carbon removal and Carbon farming Activities which should, inter alia:

- advise the Commission on the technical certification methodologies, including on the minimum sustainability requirements, as well as on the possible need to update those certification methodologies;

- analyse the impact of the technical certification methodologies in terms of the potential costs and benefits of their application;

- monitor and regularly report to the Commission on trends at Union and Member State level regarding carbon removal and carbon farming.

Certification of compliance

The amended text stressed that the certification scheme should appoint a certification body which should conduct a certification audit to verify that the requested information is accurate and reliable. When multiple different carbon farming activities take place at farm level, the certification audits may be conducted on a single occasion.

Re-certification audits should take place at least every 5 years for carbon farming activities, and at least every 10 years for other activities, following a risk-based approach.

Certification bodies

Concerning the certification bodies, the report stated that these should be **remunerated** by the certification scheme in order to ensure the independence of the certification or re-certification audits. The list of accredited certification bodies shall be made publicly available in the Union registry.

Operation of certification schemes

For the purpose of handling complaints and appeals, certification schemes should put in place easily accessible complaint and appeal procedures. Those procedures should be made publicly available in the Union registry. Members suggested that a certification scheme should submit all relevant data and reporting that are required to be included in the Union registry.

Review

The Commission should assess the possible benefits and trade-offs of the inclusion of other long-lived carbon storage products based on the latest scientific evidence. By 12 months from the date of entry into force of this Regulation, the Commission should report to the European Parliament and to the Council on the establishment of Union targets for permanent carbon removals and for land-based sequestration as an integral part of the post-2030 Union climate framework.

Union certification framework for carbon removals

2022/0394(COD) - 10/04/2024 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 441 votes to 139, with 41 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Union certification framework for carbon removals.

The position adopted by the European Parliament at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure is as follows:

Subject matter

The aim of this Regulation is to develop a **voluntary Union certification framework** for permanent carbon removals, carbon farming and carbon storage in products, with a view to facilitating and encouraging the uptake of high-quality carbon removals and soil emission reductions, in full respect of the biodiversity and the zero-pollution objectives, as a complement to sustained emission reductions across all sectors.

To that end, this Regulation establishes a voluntary Union framework for the certification of carbon removals and soil emission reductions by laying down:

- quality criteria for activities that take place in the Union;

- rules for the verification and certification of carbon removals and soil emission reductions generated by activities;

- rules for the functioning and recognition by the Commission of certification schemes;

- **rules on the issuance and use of certified units**.

Definitions

The amended Regulation modifies several definitions:

- '**permanent carbon removal**' means any practice or process that, under normal circumstances and using appropriate management practices, captures and stores atmospheric or biogenic carbon for several centuries, including permanently chemically bound carbon in products, and which is not combined with enhanced hydrocarbon recovery;

- '**carbon farming**' means any practice or process, carried out over an activity period of at least five years, related to terrestrial or coastal management and resulting in capture and temporary storage of atmospheric and biogenic carbon into biogenic carbon pools or the reduction of soil emissions;

- '**carbon storage in products**' means any practice or process that captures and stores atmospheric or biogenic carbon for at least 35 years in long-lasting products and which allows on-site monitoring of the carbon stored and certified throughout the monitoring period.

There will be different units for these different categories due to their differences and environmental impact. The amended Regulation tasked the Commission to develop different certification methodologies for these categories.

To promote the sustainable and efficient use of limited biomass resources, the certification methodologies should ensure consistency with the application of the principle of the cascading use of biomass as laid down in the amended Renewable Energy Directive.

For any activity to qualify for certification it must **go beyond both EU and national requirements** for individual operators and the incentive effect of the certification must be needed for the activity to become financially viable.

Sustainability requirements

An activity should not significantly harm and may generate co-benefits for one or more of, the following sustainability objectives:

- climate change mitigation beyond the net carbon removal benefit and net soil emission reduction benefit;

- climate change adaptation;

- sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources;

- transition to a circular economy, including the efficient use of sustainably sourced bio-based materials;

- pollution prevention and control;

- protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems including soil health, as well as avoidance of land degradation.

A carbon farming activity should at least generate co-benefits for the sustainability objective. The minimum sustainability requirements should promote the sustainability of forest and agriculture biomass raw material in accordance with the sustainability and GHG saving criteria for biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuel.

Union wide register

By 4 years from the entry into force of this Regulation, the Commission should establish and duly maintain a Union wide registry for permanent carbon removals, carbon farming and carbon storage in products, to make publicly available the information related to the certification process, in an accessible way, containing, as a minimum, the information concerning the certification procedure. The Union registry should be financed by annual fixed fees payable by users, proportionate to the use of the registry.

Certified units should be issued by certification registries or, by 4 years from the entry into force of this Regulation, by the Union registry, only after the generation of a net carbon removal benefit or net soil emission reduction benefit, based on a valid certificate of compliance resulting from a re-certification audit.

Review

No later than 31 July 2026, the Commission should review the application of the Regulation to the reduction of emissions from **enteric fermentation and manure management** and present a report to the European Parliament and the Council, if appropriate, accompanied by a legislative proposal.

Union certification framework for carbon removals

2022/0394(COD) - 30/11/2022 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to establish a new EU-wide certification framework for carbon removals.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: the EU has committed to reaching climate neutrality by 2050. The first and most urgent priority is the reduction of EU greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. At the same time, the EU needs to compensate for residual emissions that cannot be eliminated, by **scaling up carbon removals**, or in other words by removing carbon dioxide (CO2) from the atmosphere. This proposal for a carbon removals certification scheme is an important tool to achieve this goal.

Carbon can be removed and stored in three broad ways:

1) **permanent storage**: industrial technologies such as BECCS (bio-energy with carbon capture and storage) or DACCS (Direct Air Capture with Capture and Storage), capture carbon from the air either indirectly (through the processing of biomass in the case of BECCS) or directly (in the case of DACCS) and store it in a stable form;

2) **carbon farming**: carbon can be naturally stored on land through activities that enhance carbon capture in soils and forests (e.g. agro-forestry, forest restoration, better soil management), and/or reduce the release of carbon from soils to the atmosphere (e.g. restoration of peatland);

3) **carbon storage** in products: atmospheric carbon captured by trees or industrial technologies can also be used and stored in long-lasting products and materials, such as wood-based or carbonate-bonded construction materials.

The Commission's proposal does not cover the capture of fossil carbon for Storage (CCS) or Utilisation (CCU). These technologies help recycle or store fossil CO2 emissions but they do not remove carbon from the atmosphere.

CONTENT: this proposed Regulation seeks to develop a **voluntary Union certification framework for carbon removals**, with the view to incentivise the uptake of high-quality carbon removals, in full respect of the biodiversity and the zero-pollution objectives.

Its main objectives are to:

- ensure the high quality of carbon removals in the EU;

- establish an EU governance certification system to avoid greenwashing by correctly applying and enforcing the EU quality framework criteria in a reliable and harmonised way across the Union.

To ensure the **transparency and credibility** of the certification process, the proposal sets out rules for the **independent third-party verification** of carbon removals, as well as rules to recognise certification schemes that can be used to demonstrate compliance with the EU framework. To ensure the quality and comparability of carbon removals, the proposed regulation establishes **four QU.A.L.ITY criteria**:

1) ***Quantification***: carbon removal activities need to be measured accurately and deliver unambiguous benefits for the climate;

2) ***Additionality***: carbon removal activities need to go beyond existing practices and what is required by law;

3) ***Long-term storage***: certificates are linked to the duration of carbon storage so as to ensure permanent storage;

4) ***Sustainability***: carbon removal activities must preserve or contribute to sustainability objectives such as climate change adaptation, circular economy, water and marine resources, and biodiversity.

The proposal also aims to:

- develop certification methodologies that are tailored to each type of carbon removal activity, in order to promote a harmonised and correct implementation of the QU.A.L.ITY criteria;

- increase the **public trust** in carbon removals by ensuring the transparency and robustness of the certification process, including the certification schemes recognised by the Commission and the public registries of carbon removals.

The proposal also imposes the obligation for certification schemes to set up and maintain **public registries** for evidence of carbon removal activities and carbon removal units. It is of key importance that registries use automated systems and are interoperable in order to prevent fraud and avoid double counting.

The proposed Regulation affects economic operators such as farmers, foresters but also industrial companies that will develop carbon removal activities on the ground; private organisations and Member States authorities, who may develop private or public certification schemes to implement and control the certification process.

Budgetary implications

Major budgetary implications for the EU concern the preparation of the non-legislative acts and operation of the Expert Group on Carbon Removals which includes approximately 70 members. Budgetary implications for the Commission are associated to the recognition process of public or private certification schemes that would be responsible to implement the certification framework in one or more Member States. Budgetary implications are also foreseen for those Member States that intend to establish and operate a national certification scheme, including the supervision of independent certification bodies and the establishment and operation of a national registry.

Union certification framework for carbon removals

2022/0394(COD) - 06/12/2024 - Final act

PURPOSE: to promote the deployment of high-quality carbon removals and soil emission reductions while minimising the risk of greenwashing.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Regulation (EU) 2024/3012 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Union certification framework for permanent carbon removals, carbon farming and carbon storage in products.

CONTENT: this regulation establishes a **voluntary Union framework for the certification of carbon removals and soil emission reductions**. This voluntary framework will facilitate and encourage high-quality carbon removal and soil emission reduction activities in the EU, as a complement to sustained emission reductions. The regulation aims to support the achievement of the Union objectives under the Paris Agreement, in particular the collective achievement, at the latest by 2050, of the climate-neutrality objective.

Activities covered

The regulation covers the following activities across the EU:

- **permanent carbon removal** means any practice or process that, under normal circumstances and using appropriate management practices, captures and stores atmospheric or biogenic carbon for **several centuries**, including permanently chemically bound carbon in products, and which is not combined with enhanced hydrocarbon recovery;

- **carbon farming** means any practice or process, carried out over an activity period of at least **5 years**, related to terrestrial or coastal management and resulting in capture and temporary storage of atmospheric and biogenic carbon into biogenic carbon pools or the reduction of soil emissions (e.g. reforestation, restoring peatlands or wetlands, improved fertiliser use);

- **carbon storage in products** means any practice or process that captures and stores atmospheric or biogenic carbon for at least **35 years** in long-lasting products (such as wood-based construction products) and which allows on-site monitoring of the carbon stored and certified throughout the monitoring period.

Certification criteria

Carbon removal activities will have to meet four overarching criteria to be certified:

- they must bring about a **quantified net carbon removal benefit** or net soil emission reduction benefit;

- they must be **additional**, meaning that they go beyond statutory requirements at the level of an individual operator and they need the incentive effect of the certification to become financially viable;

- they must aim to ensure **long-term storage** of carbon while minimising the risk of carbon release;

- they should do **no significant harm** to the environment and should be able to result in co-benefits to one or more sustainability goals.

Certification schemes

To obtain certification of compliance with the regulation, an operator or group of operators will need to submit an application to a certification scheme. Activities eligible for certification will need to be independently verified by third-party certification bodies. All activities will need to undergo periodic recertification audits at least every five years, or more frequently.

Certification schemes will be in place for operators to prove compliance with the regulation. These will be subject to **robust and transparent** monitoring, verification and reporting rules to promote trust in the system and ensure environmental integrity. They must also ensure that certified carbon removal or land emission reduction units are correctly accounted for, in particular by avoiding double counting.

Liability mechanisms will also be in place for operators in order to address any release of captured carbon back into the atmosphere.

Only a certification scheme recognised by the Commission by means of a decision may be used by an operator or a group of operators to demonstrate compliance with this Regulation.

EU Registry

The Commission will establish, by 27 December 2028, and thereafter maintain a Union registry for permanent carbon removals, carbon farming and carbon storage in products, to make publicly available the information related to the certification process in an accessible way. The Union registry will be financed by annual fixed fees payable by users.

Certified units will be issued by certification registries or, once established, by the Union registry only after the generation of a net carbon removal benefit or net soil emission reduction benefit, based on a valid certificate of compliance resulting from a re-certification audit.

The Regulation will be subject to regular monitoring in all its aspects. By 27 December 2027, and within six months following the results of each global stocktake under the Paris Agreement, the Commission will report to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of the Regulation.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 26.12.2024.