



Funded by  
the European Union

**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



**THE WORLD BANK**  
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

# What's new in the EU policies?

**Ľuboš Halada**

Institute of Landscape Ecology SAS, Slovakia



Funded by  
the European Union

**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



**THE WORLD BANK**  
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

# Content

- The European Green Deal
- EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2023
- **EU Nature Restoration Regulation**
- LIFE programme



Funded by  
the European Union

**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



# The European Green Deal

The Communication of the Commission of 11 December 2019

**Overarching aim: making the European Union climate neutral in 2050**

European Green Deal sets out an ambitious roadmap to **transform the Union into a fair and prosperous society**, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy, aiming to protect, **conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital**, and to protect the health and well-being of citizens from environment-related risks and impacts.

Now: criticism, call for revision

## Policy areas

- Clean energy
- Sustainable industry
- Building and renovation
- Farm to Fork
- Eliminating pollution
- Sustainable mobility
- Biodiversity and ecosystem health**
- Nature Restoration Law**
- Sustainable finance



Funded by  
the European Union

# EU4Environment

Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



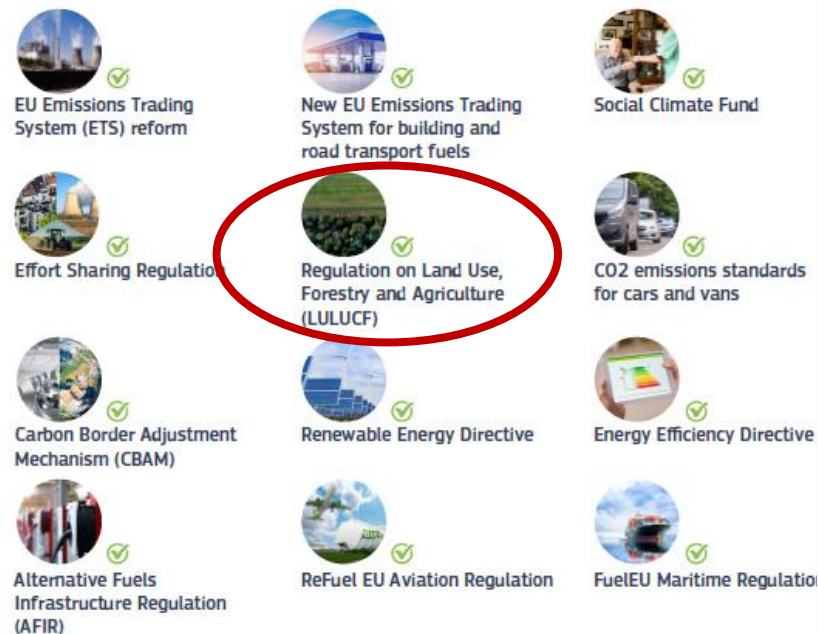
THE WORLD BANK  
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

## The European Green Deal

### THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL – DELIVERING THE EU'S 2030 CLIMATE TARGETS

Under the European Climate Law, the EU committed to reduce its net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030. The 'Fit for 55' package of legislation makes all sectors of the EU's economy fit to meet this target. It sets the EU on a path to reach its climate targets in a fair, cost-effective and competitive way.

#### FIT FOR 55 – COMMISSION PROPOSALS



Adopted

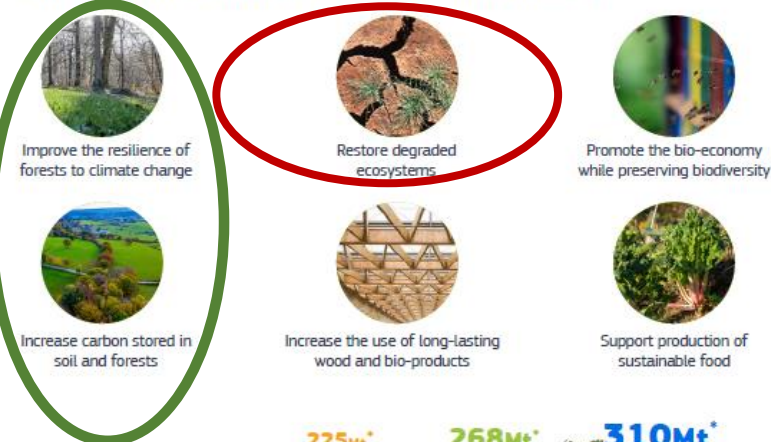
### MAKING SUSTAINABLE USE OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

Nature is an important ally in the fight against climate change. It regulates the climate, supports biodiversity, absorbs and stores carbon in forests, peatlands and wetlands.

A circular and sustainable management of these resources will improve our living conditions, maintain a healthy environment, create future-proof and high-quality jobs, and provide sustainable food, bio-products and energy. **New business models** that reward more climate-friendly land management ("carbon farming") will create new income opportunities for farmers and foresters.

#### A CLIMATE NEUTRAL LAND SECTOR

The revised Regulation on Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) will help:



**New target** to restore and expand the EU's natural carbon sinks by 2030:



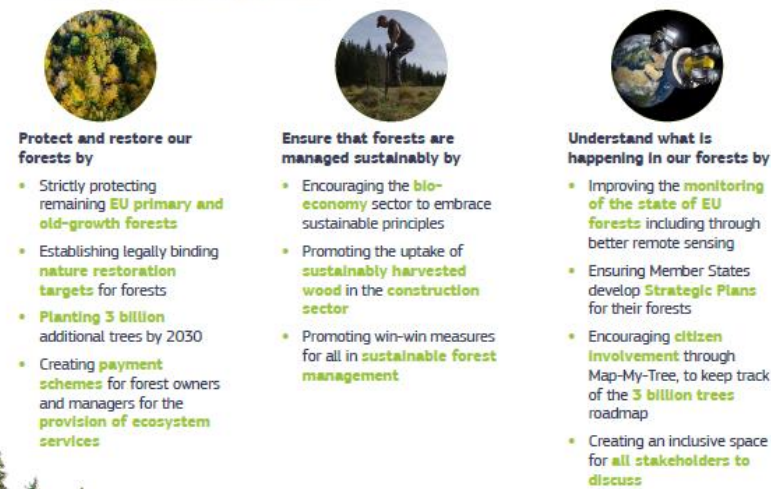
\*CO<sub>2</sub>eq

#### NEW EU FOREST STRATEGY FOR 2030

Forests are essential for our health and wellbeing, and the health of the planet. They are rich in biodiversity and are hugely important in the fight against climate change.

The EU Forest Strategy will **improve the quantity and quality** of EU forests by:

- Increasing forest coverage in the EU in respecting ecological principles
- Improving the resilience of forests in the EU





Funded by  
the European Union

**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



**THE WORLD BANK**  
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

# EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2023 „Bringing nature back into our lives“

Aim: to ensure that Europe's biodiversity will be put on the path to recovery by 2030 for the benefit of people, the planet, the climate and our economy.

It sets out an ambitious **EU Nature Restoration Plan with a number of key commitments**, including a commitment to put forward a proposal for legally binding EU nature restoration targets to restore degraded ecosystems, in particular those with the most potential to capture and store carbon, and to prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters.





Funded by  
the European Union

**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



# EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2023

## EU key commitments by 2030

1. Legally binding **EU nature restoration targets**. By 2030, significant areas of degraded and carbon-rich ecosystems are restored; habitats and species show no deterioration in conservation trends and status; and at least 30% reach favourable conservation status or at least show a positive trend.
2. The **decline in pollinators is reversed**.
3. The **risk and use of chemical pesticides is reduced by 50%** and the use of more hazardous pesticides is reduced by 50%.
4. At least 10% of agricultural area is under **high-diversity landscape features**.
5. At least 25% of agricultural land is under **organic farming management**, and the uptake of agro-ecological practices is significantly increased.
6. **Three billion new trees** are planted in the EU, in full respect of ecological principles.
7. Significant progress has been made in the **remediation of contaminated soil sites**.



Funded by  
the European Union

**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



# EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2023

## EU key commitments by 2030

8. At least **25,000 km of free-flowing rivers** are restored.
9. There is a **50% reduction in the number of Red List species** threatened by invasive alien species.
10. The **losses of nutrients from fertilisers are reduced** by 50%, resulting in the reduction of the use of fertilisers by at least 20%.
11. **Cities with at least 20,000 inhabitants have an ambitious Urban Greening Plan.**
12. **No chemical pesticides are used** in sensitive areas such as EU urban green areas.
13. The **negative impacts on sensitive species and habitats**, including on the seabed through fishing and extraction activities, are substantially reduced to achieve good environment status.
14. The **by-catch of species is eliminated or reduced** to a level that allows species recovery and conservation.



Funded by  
the European Union

**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



# EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2023

> Establish protected areas for at least:



**30%**  
of land in  
Europe



**30%**  
of sea in  
Europe

With stricter protection of  
remaining EU primary and old-  
growth forests legally binding  
nature restoration targets in 2021.

> Restore degraded ecosystems at land and sea across the whole of Europe by:



Increasing organic  
farming and biodiversity-  
rich landscape features  
on agricultural land



Halting and  
reversing the  
decline of  
pollinators



Restoring at least  
25 000 km of EU  
rivers to a free-  
flowing state



Reducing the  
use and risk of  
pesticides by  
50% by 2030



Planting 3 billion  
trees by 2030

- **Unlock 20 billion EUR/year for biodiversity** through various sources,
- Put the EU in a **leading position in the world** in addressing the global biodiversity crisis.





Funded by  
the European Union

**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



# EU Nature Restoration Regulation

2024/1991 of 24 June 2024

**NRR is a key element of the EU Biodiversity Strategy**

**The Regulation aims to restore ecosystems, habitats and species across the EU's land and sea areas**

**Four overarching objectives:**

- To ensure the **long-term and sustained recovery of biodiversity and resilient ecosystems** through the restoration of degraded ecosystems
- To contribute to **achieving the EU's objectives concerning climate mitigation and adaptation** and land degradation neutrality
- To enhance **food security**
- To contribute to meeting **international commitments**



Funded by  
the European Union

**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



# EU Nature Restoration Regulation

**Sets binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems**

**The overall objective at EU level is to put in place restoration measures on at least 20% of Europe's land and at least 20% of sea areas by 2030, and in all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050.**

- Restore habitats and species protected by EU nature legislation
- Reverse the decline of pollinators by 2030
- No net loss of green urban spaces by 2030 and a minimum of 10% tree canopy cover in European cities
- Improved biodiversity on farmland e.g. for butterflies, farmland birds, high-biodiversity landscape features
- Restore drained peatlands
- Healthier forests with improved biodiversity
- At least 25.000 km free-flowing rivers by 2030
- Restore seagrasses and sea bottoms



Funded by  
the European Union

**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



**THE WORLD BANK**  
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

# EU Nature Restoration Regulation

2024/1991 of 24 June 2024

- **Article 1:** Member States shall put in place **effective and area-based restoration measures** with the aim to jointly cover, as a Union target, throughout the areas and ecosystems within the scope of this Regulation, **at least 20 % of land areas and at least 20 % of sea areas by 2030, and all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050.**

## Article 3 – definition of terms

**Restoration** means the process of actively or passively **assisting the recovery of an ecosystem** in order to improve its structure and functions, with the aim of conserving or enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, through improving an area of a habitat type to good condition, re-establishing favourable reference area, and improving a habitat of a species to sufficient quality and quantity



Funded by  
the European Union

**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



# EU Nature Restoration Regulation

2024/1991 of 24 June 2024

## Article 4: Restoration of terrestrial, coastal and freshwater ecosystems – to restore:

- by **2030 on at least 30 % of the total area of all habitat types** listed in Annex I that is **not in good condition**
- by **2040 on at least 60 % and by 2050, on at least 90 % of** the area of each group of habitat types listed in Annex I that is not in good condition
- priority to restoration measures in areas that are **located in Natura 2000 sites** until 2030
- Member States may exclude from restoration very common and widespread habitat types that cover more than 3 % of their European territory – if duly justified
- MS shall put in place restoration measures for the terrestrial, coastal and freshwater **habitats of the species listed in** Annexes II, IV and V **to Habitats Directive and of wild birds falling within the scope of the Birds Directive**



Funded by  
the European Union

**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



**THE WORLD BANK**  
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

# **EU Nature Restoration Regulation**

2024/1991 of 24 June 2024

**Article 5: Restoration of marine ecosystems**

**Article 8: Restoration of urban ecosystems**

**Article 9: Restoration of the natural connectivity of rivers and natural functions of the related floodplains**

**Article 10: Restoration of pollinator populations**

**Article 11: Restoration of agricultural ecosystems**

**Article 12: Restoration of forest ecosystems**

**CHAPTER III: NATIONAL RESTORATION PLANS**

**CHAPTER IV: MONITORING AND REPORTING**





Funded by  
the European Union

**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



**THE WORLD BANK**  
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

# LIFE Programme

**EU funding instrument for the environment and climate action.**

**The general objective:** to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental and climate policy and legislation by co-financing projects with European added value.

LIFE began in 1992

The future is green.  
The future is *Life*

## Now four sub-programmes:

- Nature and Biodiversity
- Circular Economy and Quality of Life
- Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
- Clean Energy Transition



Nature and Biodiversity



Circular Economy and Quality of Life



Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation



Clean Energy Transition





Funded by  
the European Union

**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



**THE WORLD BANK**  
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

# Thank you for attention