

# Press release

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## Nature restoration law: MEPs adopt position for negotiations with Council

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- Restoring ecosystems crucial to combat climate change and biodiversity loss; reduces risks to food security
  - Draft law does not impose new protected areas in the EU
  - Targets postponed if there are exceptional socioeconomic consequences
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Nature restoration supports the recovery of damaged ecosystems and bring more nature and biodiversity back everywhere. © J. Lund AdobeStock

**The EU must have restoration measures in place by 2030 covering at least 20% of its land and sea areas, say MEPs.**

Following a debate on [Tuesday](#), Parliament today adopted its position on the [EU nature restoration law](#) with 336 votes in favour, 300 against and 13 abstentions. A vote to reject the Commission's proposal did not pass (312 votes to 324 and 12 abstentions).

MEPs underline that restoring the ecosystem is key to combating climate change and biodiversity loss, and reduces risks to food security. They stress that the draft law does not impose the creation of new protected areas in the EU nor block new renewable energy infrastructure as they added a new article underlining that such installations are overwhelmingly in the public interest.

**Nature restoration targets for 2030**

Parliament highlights that the new law must contribute to reaching the EU's international commitments, in particular the [UN Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity framework](#). MEPs support the Commission's proposal to put restoration measures in place by 2030 covering at least 20% of all land and sea areas in the EU.

Parliament says that the law shall only apply when the Commission has provided data on the

necessary conditions to guarantee long-term food security and when EU countries have quantified the area that needs to be restored to reach the restoration targets for each habitat type. Parliament also foresees a possibility to postpone the targets under exceptional socioeconomic consequences.

Within 12 months of this Regulation entering into force, the Commission would have to assess any gap between restoration financial needs and available EU funding and look into solutions to bridge such a gap, in particular through a dedicated EU instrument.

### Quote

After the vote, rapporteur [César Luena](#) (SD, ES), said: "The Nature Restoration Law is an essential piece of the European Green Deal and follows the scientific consensus and recommendations to restore Europe's ecosystems. Farmers and fishers will benefit from it and it ensures a habitable earth for future generations. Our position adopted today sends a clear message. Now we must continue the good work, defend our ground during the negotiations with member states and reach an agreement before the end of this Parliament's mandate to pass the first regulation on nature restoration in the EU's history."

### Next steps

Parliament is now ready to start negotiations with Council on the final shape of the legislation.

### Background

Over 80% of European habitats are in poor shape. The Commission proposed on 22 June 2022 [a regulation on nature restoration](#) to contribute to the long-term recovery of damaged nature across the EU's land and sea areas and to achieve EU [climate](#) and [biodiversity](#) objectives. [According to the Commission](#), the new law would bring significant economic benefits, as every euro invested would result in at least 8 euro in benefits.

This legislation is responding to citizens' expectations concerning the protection and restoration of biodiversity, the landscape and oceans as expressed in proposals 2(1), 2(3), 2(4) and 2(5) of the [conclusions of the Conference on the Future of Europe](#).

### Further information

[Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety](#)

[Adopted text will be available here \(12.07.2023\)](#)

[Results of roll call votes will be available here \(12.07.2023\)](#)

[Press conference with the rapporteur \(12.07.2023 at 14.00\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Rule 59 of the rules of procedure: Vote in Parliament – first reading](#)

[EP Research: “Nature restoration regulation at a glance” \(05.07.2023\)](#)

[EP research: EU nature restoration regulation: Setting binding targets for healthy ecosystems \(October 2022\)](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: Free photos, videos and audio material](#)


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