



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
ENVIRONMENT  
Biodiversity  
The Director

Brussels, Ares(2022)  
ENV.D/HDR

Dear Petitioner,

Thank you for your e-mail addressed to Commissioner Sinkevičius concerning the need to restore nature and reverse the loss of biodiversity in Europe. Commissioner Sinkevičius asked me to reply to you in his name.

The Commission agrees that it is necessary to put Europe's biodiversity back on the path to recovery. The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, called on the Commission to put forward a proposal for legally binding EU nature restoration targets to fill the gaps in the existing regulatory framework and promote the restoration of degraded and carbon-rich ecosystems.

The proposal for a new nature restoration Regulation was adopted on 22 June 2022. It is a key deliverable of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and of the European Green Deal. Restoring nature is an investment in our future.

I would like to invite you to consult the proposal and accompanying impact assessment here: [Nature restoration law \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/e3000000/1/6/20220622_IPA_Nature%20restoration%20law_en.pdf)

In practice, the proposal requires that, by 2030, effective restoration measures are in place for 20% of the Union's land and sea areas. It also requires that, by 2050, restoration measures address all ecosystems in need of repair. It blends those overarching objectives with targets for specific ecosystems. Member States shall put in place the restoration measures that are necessary to improve to good condition areas of a list of specific terrestrial and marine habitat types which are not in good condition.

The proposal also includes targets for ensuring no net loss, and the increase of green urban spaces in cities, towns and suburbs. Providing a minimum level of tree cover and providing green spaces are integrated into new and existing buildings and infrastructure developments contribute to these targets.

Furthermore, the proposal establishes obligations to remove river barriers. This will contribute to the natural longitudinal and lateral connectivity of rivers and the EU's objective to have 25 000 km of free-flowing rivers. It will also help restore river areas and floodplains.

There is an obligation to reverse the decline of pollinators and to achieve an increasing trend of pollinator populations until satisfactory levels are reached.

Finally, to improve biodiversity of agro-ecosystems and forest ecosystems, the proposal also sets obligations for Member States to achieve an increasing trend for a set of indicators that are particularly important for the biodiversity of those ecosystems.

I hope this information is helpful for you, and I thank you for writing to the Commission about this important topic.

Yours faithfully,

Humberto DELGADO ROSA