



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

CLIMATE ACTION

Directorate C – Innovation for a Low Carbon, Resilient Economy

**CLIMA.C.3 – Low Carbon Solutions (III): Land Economy & Carbon Removals**

Brussels

CLIMA.C.3/SJ/sc(2024)2657231

**Subject: your petition “Sadhguru Presents Save Soil at UNCCD COP 15” (ref. Ares(2024)2150901)**

Dear Petitioner,

Thank you for sharing your views on the issue of soil degradation with Commissioner Sinkevičius. This has been passed on to me and my team, I'm pleased to share updates on the significant efforts made to address this critical topic to improve soil health and the increase of soil organic carbon in agricultural land.

In this regard, the European Parliament and the Council have recently reached a political agreement on the Carbon Removal Certification Framework (CRCF) Regulation. This is the first voluntary regulatory framework for permanent carbon removals, carbon farming and carbon storage in products. The Regulation has been developed to facilitate and speed up the deployment of activities on permanent carbon removals, carbon farming and carbon storage in products. It sets out criteria that will ensure that carbon removals are correctly quantified, store carbon for an agreed long-term period, go beyond existing practices and don't just reward the status quo but contribute to broader sustainability goals, for instance by providing positive impacts on soil health.

The Commission, supported by our Carbon Removal Expert Group, will continue this work by developing credible and tailored certification methodologies for the different types of carbon removal activities. For carbon farming, the contribution to the sustainable management of agricultural land is also to be considered. With this, farmers will be able to make better-informed decisions about which actions will increase the carbon stored in their soils and forests.

Land managers are with this incentivised to store carbon on their land through carbon farming activities such as better soil management or agroforestry. Certified carbon removals offer the basis for new economic opportunities, as well as generating commercial advantages with consumers looking to reward environmentally friendly practices.

At this point, we are not considering implementing a dedicated label. However, rest assured that our focus remains on implementing practical measures and regulations that yield tangible benefits for soil health and environmental sustainability. There is in parallel ongoing co-decision process on for example the Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition (ECGT) Directive which includes the banning of some commercial practices e.g. unsubstantiated sustainability labels and generic environmental claims.

Furthermore, I'm pleased to share that the Commission has also published a proposal for a 'Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience,' which aims to establish a robust soil monitoring framework for all soils within the EU. This directive aligns with our overarching goal of achieving healthy soils by 2050 and mitigating the adverse effects of soil degradation on biodiversity, food security, and human health.

Let me thank you once again for your contribution to this important issue. I would also encourage you to follow the work of our Expert group and subscribe to our newsletter “EU Updates on Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming” via the following link: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/CarbonRemovalMailingList>

Yours faithfully,

Christian HOLZLEITNER  
Head of Unit

