



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 14.1.2023  
C(2023) 379 final*

*Dear Chair,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Poslanecká sněmovna for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation on nature restoration {COM(2022) 304 final}.*

*The Commission proposal for a Regulation on nature restoration is a key deliverable of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, which itself is an essential element of the European Green Deal. It is a ground-breaking initiative and will be the first comprehensive law of its kind, setting out legally binding targets for nature restoration. It includes concrete, time-bound targets and obligations for the EU Member States which complement and reinforce existing EU legislation on nature, water and marine ecosystems.*

*With this proposal, the Commission is responding to the calls from both the European Parliament and the Council to step up efforts to restore ecosystems. The Commission acknowledges that the proposed targets are ambitious and that meeting them will require important efforts from national authorities, including for the adaptation of existing procedures for monitoring the state of biodiversity in ecosystems, its assessment and planning of restoration measures.*

*Nature restoration requires adequate funding from public and private sources. Member State can use funding opportunities offered by EU-level funds, including LIFE, the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the European Agricultural Guarantee fund, the European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund, Horizon Europe and InvestEU.*

*This adds up to over EUR 100 billion available for biodiversity spending under the current EU Multiannual Financial Framework. That is equivalent to EUR 14 billion*

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*annually, of which a percentage will be used for restoration. That should cover to a large extent the cost of restoration which is estimated at EUR 6-8 billion per year. These amounts build upon the ambition agreed by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission to dedicate 7.5% of the EU budget for biodiversity in 2024 and 10% in 2026 and 2027. The Recovery and Resilience Facility offers another potential source of EU-level funding for the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.*

*In addition, private and public/private investments can be stimulated, for instance through the EU taxonomy for sustainable activities and the EU Business @ Biodiversity platform. InvestEU provides significant opportunities in this regard, through the EUR 10 billion natural capital and circular economy initiative that should mobilise at least EUR 10 billion over the next 10 years based on public/private blended finance. To operationalize this, the Commission initiated a Green Advisory Service for Sustainable Investments Support (Green Assist) under InvestEU, aiming at building up a pipeline for green investment projects.*

*Restoring nature is an investment in our future. For every euro spent on restoration, we will get back a value of at least eight euros in benefits from the many services that healthy ecosystems provide.*

*Concerning the implementation at Member State level, the proposal sets binding targets with clear deadlines, but Member States will have a large degree of flexibility in the way they are implemented. A key instrument is the national restoration plan, which each Member State will have to develop in consultation with stakeholders and scientists. In this plan, each Member State will decide where, how and when the necessary restoration measures will be put in place, depending on its individual situation. The plan will also determine the satisfactory level to be reached for a series of indicators set out in the regulation, taking into account the Member State's national, regional and local conditions. When planning and putting in place the restoration measures, each Member State would have to respect property rights in accordance with applicable national legislation.*

*Private and public stakeholders will play an essential role in implementing the regulation on the ground. The national restoration plans will have to address the needs of local communities and specific stakeholder groups (e.g. farmers, foresters, and landowners). The proposal explicitly provides that Member States shall ensure that the preparation of the restoration plan is open, inclusive and effective and that the public is given early and effective opportunities to participate in its elaboration.*

*The points made above are based on the proposal presented by the Commission, which is currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council. The Committee's Opinion has been made available to the Commission's representatives in the ongoing negotiations between the European Parliament and the Council, and will inform these discussions.*

*The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Poslanecká sněmovna and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*

*Virginijus Sinkevičius  
Member of the Commission*