

## Reasoned opinion of the Riksdag

The Riksdag has examined whether the Commission's proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on nature restoration (COM(2022) 304) is compatible with the principle of subsidiarity. In the opinion of the Riksdag, the proposal conflicts with the principle of subsidiarity and inter alia involves detailed regulation of Swedish forestry.

The reasons for the Riksdag's assessment are as follows. The Committee would like to begin by stressing that there are areas in which it is important to take common measures at EU level with the purpose of restoring our ecosystems, for example, as regards measures to improve the marine environment. However, the Treaty on European Union does not contain any legal basis for a common forestry policy. The Riksdag notes that these questions are part of the national decision-making powers, and especially wishes to stress that national self-determination in forestry matters must be safeguarded. At the same time, the Riksdag is aware that there are other policy areas in the EU which have a direct or indirect impact on forestry and the forest industry.

Even if, according to the proposal, the member states are to prepare their own national restoration plans which are to serve as a basis for restoration work and, inter alia, establish satisfactory levels for the indicators specified in the regulation and identify and establish the agricultural and forestry areas in need of restoration, the overall assessment of the Riksdag is that the proposal involves a regulation of national forestry which is not compatible with the principle of subsidiarity. The Riksdag considers that national forestry is best regulated at the national level. It is at the national level that the preconditions exist for an effectively formulated forest policy which can take into consideration national and regional conditions. These conditions vary considerably between the various member states, and that is why decisions on these matters should be taken at the national level. It is important that the final regulation is compatible with national self-determination in forestry matters, and that it does not risk limiting opportunities to formulate cost-effective policies.

The Riksdag further considers that the proposal involves detailed regulation as regards agricultural land use and forestry matters which exceeds what is necessary to achieve the objectives of the proposal. These parts of the Commission's proposal are therefore not compatible with principal of proportionality.