



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 Directorate-General Environment
Directorate Biodiversity

EXPERT GROUP ON THE NATURE RESTORATION REGULATION
SUB-GROUP TO EU BIODIVERSITY PLATFORM
TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. BACKGROUND

The Nature Restoration Regulation¹ ('the Regulation') adopted on 17 June 2024 is a key deliverable of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, which sets out a commitment to put forward a proposal for legally binding EU nature restoration targets to restore degraded ecosystems.

The objectives of the Regulation, as set out in Article 1(1), are to contribute to the long-term and sustained recovery of biodiverse and resilient ecosystems across the Member States' land and sea areas, through the restoration of degraded ecosystems, to achieve the Union's overarching objectives concerning climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation and land degradation neutrality, to enhance food security and to meet the Union's international commitments.

To achieve this, the Regulation lays down an overarching objective at EU level to put in place effective restoration measures on 20% of EU land and sea by 2030 and for all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050. It moreover sets binding targets for Member States to restore and maintain ecosystems, as well as an effective implementation framework based on national restoration plans.

For the purpose of the implementation of the Regulation, a new committee and a new expert sub-group are set up. The new expert sub-group shall report to the Expert Group "EU Biodiversity Platform" ('EUBP') and prepare the work of the committee, as appropriate. In order to address the many cross-cutting issues in the scope of the Regulation, the new expert sub-group shall interact with the other EUBP sub-groups and also engage with other relevant expert groups and other similar bodies, as appropriate.

For any aspect not explicitly mentioned in these terms of reference, the sub-group shall operate in compliance with the terms of reference and rules of procedure of the EUBP and the Commission's horizontal rules on expert groups ('the horizontal rules')².

¹ Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2024 on nature restoration and amending Regulation (EU) 2022/869 (OJ L, 2024/1991, 29.7.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1991/oj>).

² C(2016) 3301.

2. SUBJECT MATTER

The sub-group on the Nature Restoration Regulation ('the sub-group') is set up.

3. TASKS

The sub-group's tasks shall be:

- (a) to assist the Commission's Directorate-General for Environment ('DG ENV') in the preparation of delegated acts in relation to the Regulation.
- (b) to assist DG ENV in the early preparation of implementing acts in relation to the Regulation, before submission to the committee in accordance with Regulation (EU) N°182/2011.
- (c) to assist DG ENV in developing guidance on concepts included in the Regulation in need of clarification.
- (d) to establish cooperation and coordination between the Commission, Member States and stakeholders on questions relating to the implementation of Union legislation, programmes and policies in the field of nature restoration.
- (e) to bring about an exchange of information and experience and good practice from public and private initiatives in the field of nature restoration.
- (f) to assist DG ENV in identifying, assessing and developing synergies with other policy developments, including on biodiversity, environment, climate change, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and sustainable finance.
- (g) to assist DG ENV in the preparation of legislative proposals and policy initiatives in the field of nature restoration.

4. MEMBERSHIP

1. The sub-group shall be composed of up to 70 members.
2. Members shall be Member States' authorities, other public entities and organisations.
3. Member States' authorities, other public entities and organisations shall nominate their representatives and shall be responsible for ensuring that their representatives provide a high level of expertise. DG ENV may refuse the nomination by an organisation of a representative if it considers this nomination inappropriate in the light of the requirements specified in the call for applications. In such case, the organisation concerned shall be asked to appoint another representative.
4. Members who are no longer capable of contributing effectively to the sub-group's deliberations, who, in the opinion of DG ENV, do not comply with the conditions set out in Article 339 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union or who resign, shall no longer be invited to participate in any meetings of the sub-group and may be replaced for the remainder of their term of office.

5. INVITED EXPERTS

DG ENV may invite experts with specific expertise with respect to a subject matter on the agenda to take part in the work of the sub-group on an *ad hoc* basis.

6. OBSERVERS

1. Organisations and public entities other than Member States' authorities may be granted an observer status, in compliance with the horizontal rules, by direct invitation.
2. Organisations and public entities appointed as observers shall nominate their representatives.
3. Observers and their representatives may be permitted by the Chair to take part in the discussions of sub-group and provide expertise. However, they shall not participate in the formulation of recommendations by the sub-group.

7. SELECTION PROCESS

1. The selection of the sub-group's organisations shall be carried out *via* a public call for applications, to be published on the Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities ('the Register of expert groups'). The call for applications shall clearly outline the selection criteria, including the required expertise and the interests to be represented in relation to the work to be performed. The minimum deadline for applications shall be four weeks.
2. Registration in the Transparency Register³ is required in order for individuals representing organisations to be appointed.
3. The members of the sub-group shall be appointed by the the Director-General of DG ENV from applicants with competence in the areas referred to in point 3 and who have responded to the call for applications.
4. Members shall be appointed for 5 years. They shall remain in office until replaced/the end of their term of office. Their term of office may be renewed.

Done in Brussels, on 26/07/2024

³ [Transparency Register - Homepage \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/procure-to-buy)