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Commission Invites Public Input on Future Carbon Farming Voluntary Certification

Key policies: *EU Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming Regulation (CRCF), European Green Deal, EU Climate Law, Biodiversity Strategy, Sustainable Agriculture, Carbon Farming Initiative, Delegated Acts on Certification Methodologies*

The European Commission has launched a four-week public consultation on proposed certification methodologies for carbon farming activities under the EU Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming (CRCF) Regulation.

The consultation aims to gather feedback from farmers, foresters, land managers, certification bodies, industry representatives and other stakeholders on the future voluntary certification framework that will support climate-friendly land management practices across the European Union.

Carbon farming activities contribute to carbon sequestration in soils and forests while delivering broader environmental benefits, including biodiversity protection, improved soil health and increased resilience to climate change. Through the forthcoming certification methodologies, farmers and foresters will be able to access result-based payments for verified climate action, creating new revenue opportunities while supporting the transition to sustainable land management.

Supporting climate-friendly land management

Land managers play a central role in achieving the EU's climate objectives through practices that enhance carbon storage and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Examples of eligible activities include:

- Rewetting and restoring peatlands
- Establishing agroforestry systems
- Implementing soil protection measures
- Improving fertiliser use efficiency
- Afforestation and the establishment of new forests

These practices contribute not only to climate mitigation but also to ecosystem restoration, biodiversity enhancement and the strengthening of sustainable bio-based value chains.

Developing a trusted certification framework

To support the wider adoption of carbon farming, the Commission is preparing certification methodologies that will establish common rules for measuring, verifying and rewarding climate benefits delivered by land managers.

This project is supported by the Interreg Danube Region Programme co-funded by the European Union.

The methodologies are intended to provide a robust and transparent framework that enables result-based payments linked to verified carbon removals and emission reductions. By creating clear and harmonised rules across the EU, the certification system aims to increase confidence among farmers, investors, businesses and public authorities.

The draft methodologies are now available for public consultation through the European Commission's "Have Your Say" portal. Stakeholders may submit comments until **19 February 2026**.

In addition, the proposed methodologies will be discussed during the next meeting of the Carbon Removal Expert Group on **5 February 2026**, which will be accessible through live web streaming.

Core certification requirements

The future certification methodologies will be based on several key quality criteria established by the CRCF Regulation:

Quantification

Standardised approaches will ensure accurate measurement of carbon removals and reductions in soil emissions, enabling consistent reporting and verification across Member States.

Additionality

Certified activities must generate climate benefits beyond existing legal requirements and common management practices, ensuring that carbon outcomes represent genuine additional contributions.

Storage, Monitoring and Liability

The framework will establish clear requirements for carbon storage permanence, ongoing monitoring and liability arrangements to safeguard long-term climate benefits.

Sustainability

All certified activities must respect environmental sustainability principles and contribute positively to biodiversity, ecosystem restoration and broader environmental objectives.

Enhancing transparency and accountability

The implementation of the certification framework will be supported by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/2358, which establishes minimum transparency requirements for certification schemes.

The regulation requires public access to key information concerning governance structures, recognition procedures and the operation of certification schemes. These provisions are designed to strengthen stakeholder confidence and ensure the credibility of certified carbon farming activities throughout the European Union.

A call to stakeholders

The Commission encourages all interested stakeholders to actively participate in the consultation process and contribute to shaping the future certification framework for carbon farming.

This project is supported by the Interreg Danube Region Programme co-funded by the European Union.

Input from farmers, foresters, researchers, environmental organisations, businesses and certification experts will help ensure that the methodologies are scientifically robust, practical to implement and capable of delivering meaningful climate and environmental benefits.

Background

The Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming (CRCF) Regulation entered into force on 6 December 2024 and established the first EU-wide voluntary framework for certifying carbon removals, carbon farming activities and carbon storage in products.

The regulation aims to create a harmonised system for verifying climate benefits generated by sustainable land management and carbon removal activities across Europe. To operationalise the framework, the European Commission will adopt detailed certification methodologies through Delegated Acts, providing the technical rules necessary for implementation.

The development of these methodologies represents an important step towards scaling up carbon farming practices and supporting the EU's objective of achieving climate neutrality by 2050 while strengthening the resilience of European agriculture and forestry.

Source: https://climate.ec.europa.eu/news-other-reads/news/commission-invites-public-input-future-carbon-farming-voluntary-certification-2026-01-23_en