

NATURE RESTORATION REGULATION

Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 on nature restoration

WHAT'S IN IT?

OBJECTIVE	GOOD PROSPECTS IN VIEW OF THE OBJECTIVE	MIXED PROSPECTS	A STEP BACKWARDS, UNDERMINING THE OBJECTIVE
Climate ambition in view of respecting the limit of 1.5°C global warming under the Paris Agreement			
100% renewables accelerating the phase-out of fossils and nuclear			
Fair participation of citizens in the benefits of the European Green Deal			

WHAT'S NEXT?

STATUS	MILESTONES
Entered into force	<p>By September 2026 EU Member States to submit draft national restoration plans</p> <p>By September 2033 European Commission to evaluate the application of the Regulation</p>

WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR?

RISKS	LIMITED RISK	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK
Speed. Slowing down the EU law's progress or implementation.			
Money. Conflict on distributional effects or lack of finance for making this EU law impactful.			
Fossil fuels. Open door to supporting the use of fossil fuels.			
Nuclear power. Open door to supporting the use of nuclear power.			

NO RISK N/A NOT APPLICABLE



Learn more
eu.boell.org/green-deal-risk-radar

WHAT'S IN IT?

Climate ambition

The Nature Restoration Regulation sets binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems, in particular those with the most potential to capture and store carbon. It is a core element of the EU's contributions to achieving the Paris Climate Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

100% renewables

The Regulation states that renewable energy, grid and storage infrastructure development should be presumed by EU Member States as being of overriding public interest, while putting in place the necessary conditions to limit the impact of this infrastructure and promoting activities that combine restoration activities and renewable energy projects, including in renewables acceleration and dedicated grid areas.

Fair participation

EU Member States should promote a fair and cross-society approach in the preparation and implementation of their national restoration plans. They should put in place the necessary measures to engage all relevant stakeholders and the general public, in all phases of the preparation, review and implementation of the national restoration plans. These plans should also include an estimation of financing needs for the implementation of the restoration measures, which shall include a description of the support to stakeholders affected by restoration measures.

WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR? RISKS

Speed **Money** **Fossil fuels** **Nuclear power**

The Nature Restoration Regulation was the subject of huge political divergences in both the Parliament and the Council and was adopted with the thinnest possible majorities. While not being targeted by conservative forces at the moment, and given also, as an example, the delay EU Member States have with submitting their National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs), it is unclear to what extent Member States will be able and/or willing to (a) submit their national restoration plans in time; and (b) have these plans reflect the necessary ambition to achieve the collective targets.

'The EU's flagship nature law is bad and needs to be revised after the June European Parliament elections.'

– ALEXANDER DE CROO, BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER,
POLITICO EUROPE, 31 MARCH 2024

WHAT'S NEXT?



STATUS

Entered into force on 18 August 2024

Transposition by EU Member States

Member States must prepare substantive national restoration plans and carry out the preparatory monitoring and research needed to identify the restoration measures that are necessary to meet the collective EU restoration targets.

Member States shall submit a draft of their national restoration plans to the European Commission (EC) by 1 September 2026.

Revision clauses and reporting duties

The EC shall evaluate the application of this Regulation by 31 December 2033.

Delegated acts and other related legislative action

The EC has received the mandate to revise, if need be and through Delegated Acts, the seven annexes to the Regulation (which include lists of habitat types, marine species, farmland birds, biodiversity indicators for agricultural and forest ecosystems, and restoration measures).

HOW TO IMPROVE IT? OPPORTUNITIES

As with the NECPs, the development of the national restoration plans should be seen as an opportunity for improving EU Member States' plans and policies to improve biodiversity and the ability of ecosystems to capture and store carbon.

FURTHER READING

- WWF fact sheets on [health benefits](#), [economic benefits](#) and [climate benefits](#) of nature restoration