CONFERENCIA INTERNACIONAL

Humedales ante el cambio climático

Retos y oportunidades

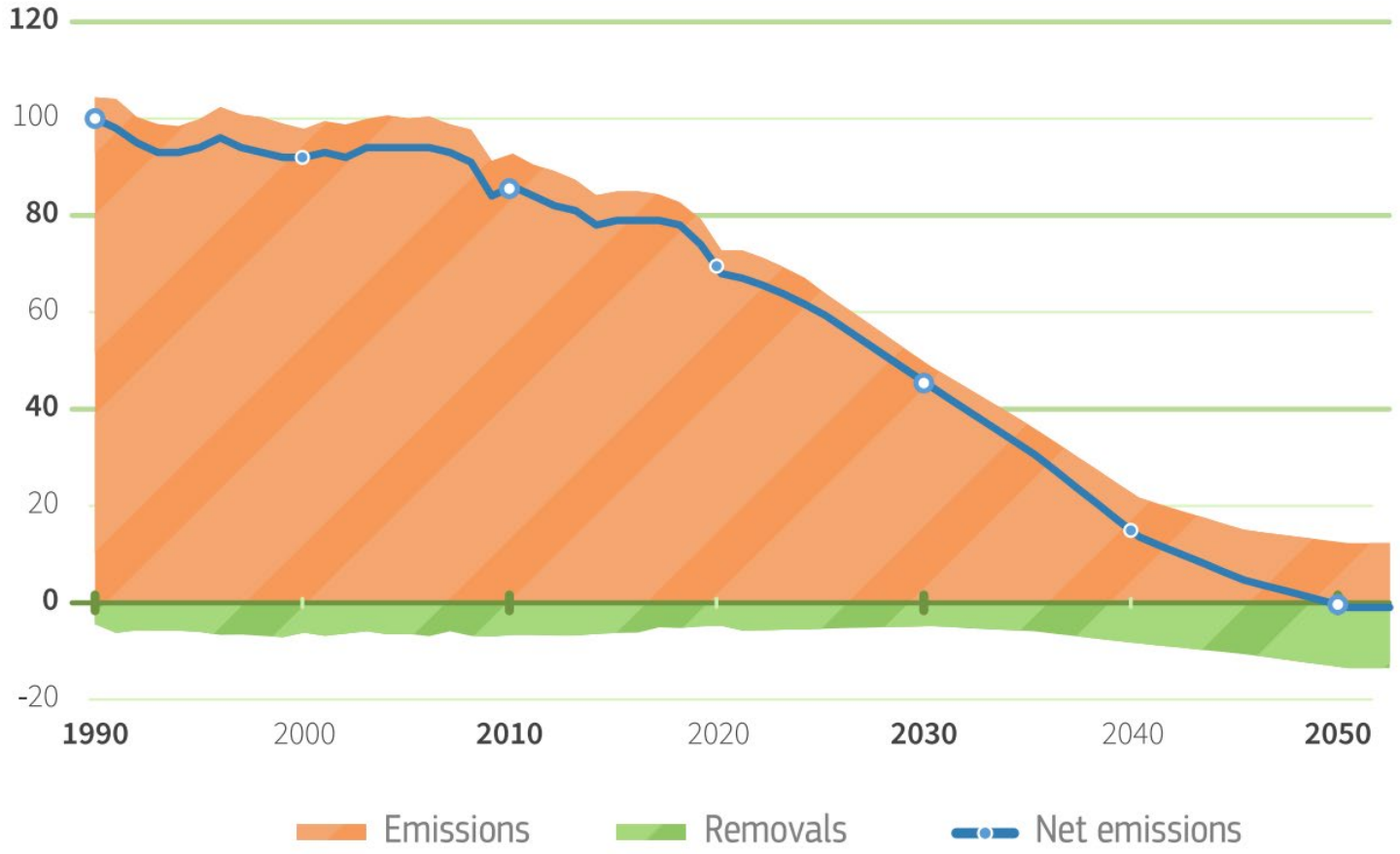
14 > 16 DE FEBRERO
PETXINA-CULTURAL VALENCIA
WWW.CONFERENCIAHUMEDALES.ES

Carbon Removal Certification Framework

International Conference Conservation and Management of Wetlands to tackle Climate Change, 14.02.2024

Iván Martínez

Why carbon removals?



Drastically reduce emissions

+

Roughly double carbon removals

→

Climate neutrality

GHG projections for climate neutrality
1990 GHG emissions = 100
Source: EU 2030 Climate Target Plan

European Commission

High-quality certification will help scaling up of financing for carbon removals

Incentivising high-quality carbon removals

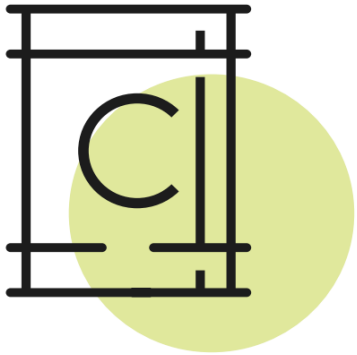
Tailored certification methodologies

Fighting greenwashing & build trust

Harmonise market conditions

Public support	• CAP • State Aid • Innovation Fund
Corporate reporting	• Green Claims • Corporate Sustainability Reporting
Labels	• Synergy with certification of organic farming and sustainable biomass
Contracts in the supply chain	• Agri-food value chains • Bioeconomy value chains
Voluntary Carbon Markets	• Contribute to integrity of Voluntary Carbon Markets

What are carbon removal activities?



PERMANENT STORAGE

E.g. Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS), Direct Air Carbon Capture and Storage (DACCS)

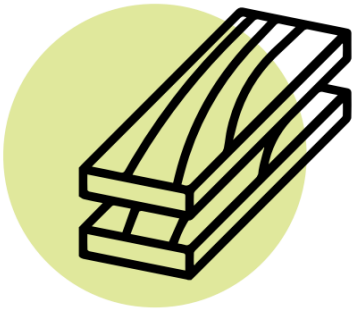
Industrial leadership for climate-neutral technologies

At least 5 MtCO2 removed in 2030, and up to 200 MtCO2 in 2050

CARBON FARMING

Soil and forest activities in the scope of the LULUCF Regulation, including: wetlands/peatlands management, agroforestry, improved forest management, soil carbon sequestration,

Synergies with biodiversity and adaptation



CARBON STORAGE IN LONG-LASTING PRODUCTS

E.g. wood-based construction materials and other carbon-storing construction products

New European Bauhaus

Contribute to LULUCF target of -310 MtCO2 removals in 2030 and climate-positive bio-economy in 2050

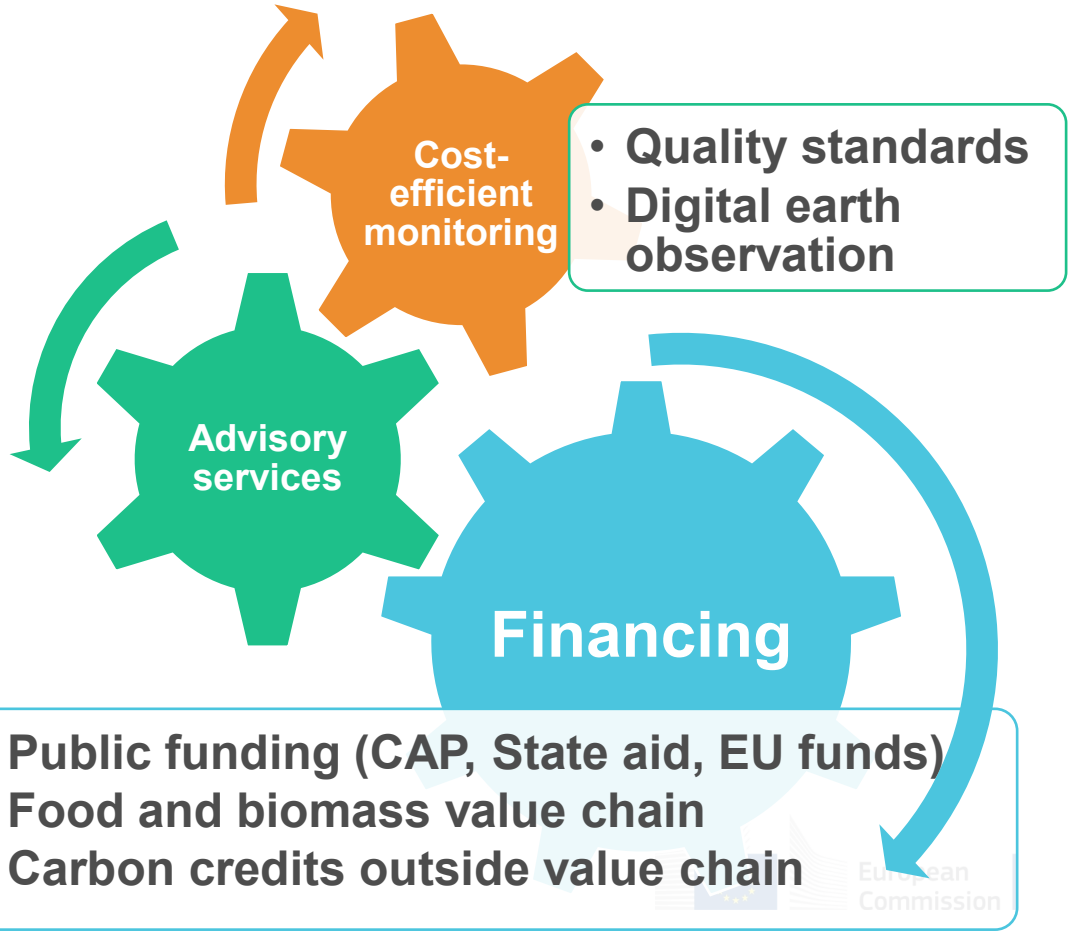
European Commission

Starting up carbon farming

Benefits

- Increased carbon removals
- Additional income for land managers
- More biodiversity and nature
- Increased climate resilience of farm and forest land

Challenges



Overview of the CRCF proposal

QU.A.L.ITY criteria

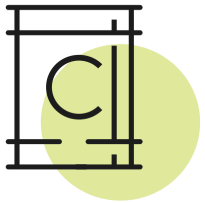
- **QU**antification
- **A**dditionality
- **L**ong-term storage
- Sustainabil**-ITY**

Certification process/rules

- Third-party verification by certification **bodies**
- Certification **schemes**
- Certification **registries**

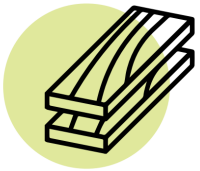
Tailored certification methodologies –

Operationalising the quality criteria with an **Expert Group**



PERMANENT STORAGE

CARBON FARMING



CARBON STORAGE IN LONG-LASTING PRODUCTS

European Commission

QU.A.L.ITY criteria

QUANTIFICATION

Carbon removal activities are measured against a baseline and are net of supply-chain emissions

ADDITIONALITY

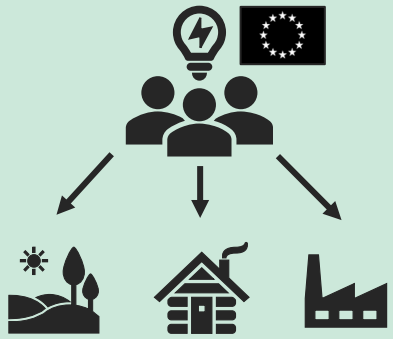
Carbon removal activities go beyond standard market practices and what is legally required to the operator

LONG-TERM STORAGE

Certificates clearly account for the duration of carbon storage and distinguish permanent storage from temporary storage

SUSTAINABIL**ITY**

Carbon removal activities do not harm the environment or even benefit other environmental objectives such as biodiversity



To operationalise the EU quality criteria, the Commission, supported by an Expert Group, will develop **tailored certification methodologies** for the different types of carbon removal activities

European Commission

Certification process / rules

THIRD-PARTY VERIFICATION

- *Requirement for verification of carbon removals by independent auditors*
- *Simplification for smaller farmers and foresters ('group of operators')*

CERTIFICATION SCHEMES

- *Implementation/control of compliance through certification schemes*
- *Certification schemes have to be recognised by the Commission against minimum governance standards (synergies with existing certification schemes for bioenergy and organic agriculture)*

CERTIFICATION REGISTRIES

- *Carbon removal units are recorded in certification registries to avoid double-counting*
- *Requirements for inter-operability of certification registries*

Certificates will provide detailed information on carbon removals, e.g.:

- *Type of carbon removal activity, amount of carbon removal units generated*
- *Duration and expiry date of the carbon removal units*
- *Sustainability requirements and co-benefits*

CRCF in co-decision – 2023/2024

Council of Ministers
European Parliament
Trilogue

16 Mar 2023
First policy debate of Environment Council

Q1-Q3 2023
Technical talks in the Council's Working Party on Environment

28 Aug 2023
AGRI Committee opinion Assoc. rapporteur: MEP HLAVÁČEK (Renew, CZ)

24 Oct 2023
ENVI Committee opinion. Lead rapporteur: MEP PEREIRA (PPE, PT)

17 Nov 2023
Final Council position

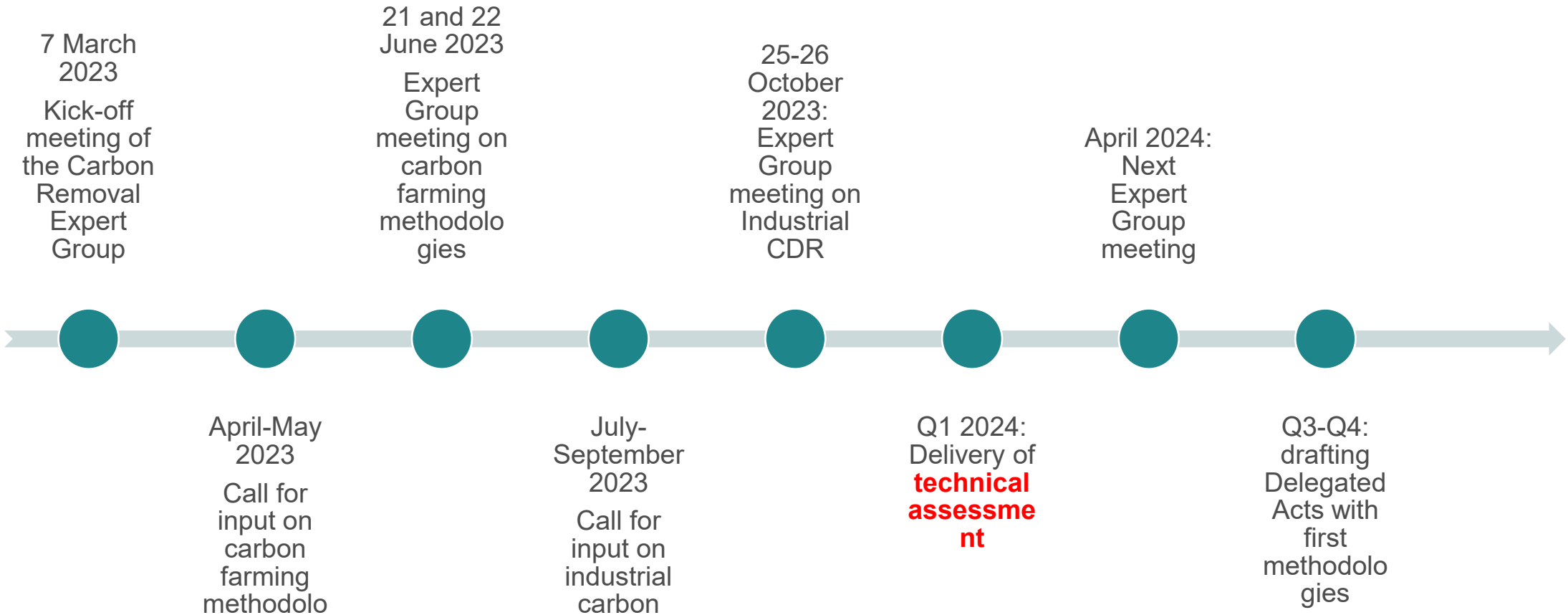
20 Nov 2023
EP Plenary vote on amendments

Nov 2023-Feb 2024
Trilogues EP-Council-Commission

Q2-Q3 2024 tentative
Final adoption of the proposal

European Commission

Implementation of CRCF – 2023/2024



European Commission

Technical assessment

- Objective: to describe advantages and disadvantages of potential approaches for the elements of the QUALITY criteria, as a basis to decide on the "best" practices that should be included in the draft certification methodologies
- Structured according to the QUALITY criteria and the elements of Annex I
- Assessment will build on:
  - review on existing carbon farming methodologies
  - input from the Technical Focus Group
  - reports and scientific articles
  - input from relevant research programs
- Methodologies should be robust but minimise the administrative burden for operators → ***Trade-off between robustness and cost-effectiveness***

Towards an EU carbon removal policy post-2030

Climate Law

- Proposal of 2040 target

(GST = Global Stock Stake)

2024

Permanent storage

- Assess inclusion of permanent storage in ETS
  (Art. 30 new ETS Directive)

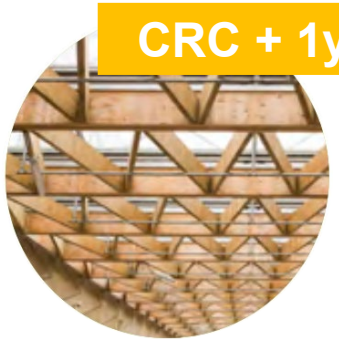
By 2026

Carbon farming

- Assess regulatory options to ensure that land is well on track for climate neutrality
  (Art 17(2) new LULUCF Reg)

By 2025

CRC + 1y



Carbon storage products

- Assess their inclusion in scope of LULUCF Regulation
  (Art 17(3) new LULUCF Reg)

2023-24

Corporate targets & claims

- EU Sustainability Reporting Standards
- Green Claims initiative

European Commission

Useful links

- Proposal: https://climate.ec.europa.eu/document/fad4a049-ff98-476f-b626-b46c6afdded3_en
- Impact Assessment: https://climate.ec.europa.eu/document/ab53e63b-4b85-4d28-ac67-6bd742506bae_en
- Press release: Commission proposes certification of carbon removals (europa.eu)
- Q&A: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_22_7159
- Factsheet: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/fs_22_7161
- More information on Sustainable Carbon Cycles: https://ec.europa.eu/clima/eu-action/forests-and-agriculture/sustainable-carbon-cycles_en
- Delivering the European Green Deal: https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/delivering-european-green-deal_en