

by CEEweb for Biodiversity

EU greenhouse gas accounting rules for forestry and agriculture released, further steps needed

Budapest, Hungary - Having released their Communication in 12 March 2012, the European Commission has put forward a new proposal on accounting of greenhouse gases emissions from forests and agriculture, a regulation essential for incorporating removals and emissions of these sectors into achieving the EU's climate commitment. While welcoming the proposal, CEEweb for Biodiversity calls upon the EC to go one step further, namely towards the proposal of forestry and agriculture-specific targets at EU level, and to embed these targets into a holistic framework of environmental policy based on the ecosystem-approach.

Commissioner for Climate Action, Connie Hedegaard said: "What we propose today is harmonised rules to account for forests and agricultures emissions. This is the first step to incorporate these sectors into the EU's reduction efforts. In Durban all countries agreed revised accounting rules for these sectors. The EU is now delivering with this proposal. The proposal will also contribute to protect biodiversity and water resources, support rural development and have a more climate-friendly agriculture."

CEEweb for Biodiversity highly welcomes the EC's new proposal and aims to advocate for the adoption of EU-wide rules for LULUCF accounting in the further discussions at the European Parliament, the Council as well as national governments. However, in our view the EU urgently needs to go one step further, namely towards the adoption of forestry and agriculture-specific targets at EU level, in order to reverse current unfavourable trends. These targets need to be supported by a holistic environmental policy and a new, more sustainable socio-economic framework involving various sectors on board, such as spatial planning, land use, agriculture, forestry and water management as well. Integrated solutions applying the ecosystem-approach are inevitable in agriculture and forestry. Convergence of interests between soil conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, water management, food production, disaster mitigation and biodiversity conservation needs to be found.

Useful links

CEEweb for Biodiversity about climate change

<http://www.ceeweb.org/work-areas/priority-areas/climate-change-and-biodiversity/>

European Commission about forests and climate change

http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/forests/index_en.htm

soil policy of the European Commission

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index_en.htm

About CEEweb for Biodiversity

CEEweb for Biodiversity is an umbrella organization of NGOs in the Central and Eastern European region. Our mission is the conservation of biodiversity through the promotion of sustainable development.

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