
PRESS RELEASE

Parliament's ENVI Committee renames CRCF and introduces vital clarifications to Certification Framework

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

For immediate release

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM -

Today, the Environment Committee of the European Parliament adopted its position on the Certification Framework. The draft report, championed by MEP Lidia Pereira (EPP, Portugal), is a substantial improvement to the [Commission's original proposal](#) and to Pereira's [first draft report](#).

The three different types of activities covered by the Certification Framework, namely Carbon Farming, Carbon Storage in Products, and Carbon Removals, are clarified with only activities ensuring the storage of atmospheric or biogenic carbon for 'several centuries' qualifying as Carbon Removal. Due to this much-needed clarification, the ENVI Committee proposes to amend the name of the proposal to explicitly mention all three types of activities, effectively turning this into a broader carbon accounting Certification Mechanism.

A key environmental safeguard, that the different activities will generate distinct units, has been approved. However, it remains unclear how these distinct units will be used differently.

Other areas of improvement include requirements to ensure and demonstrate the long-term storage of CO₂, clearer liability in the event of a reversal, requirement for carbon farming activities to have co-benefits, and restrictions on the types of claims that can be made.

- The ENVI Committee amendments are marked improvement to the Commission's original proposal and should be upheld, if not strengthened.
- The clarified distinctions between different types of activities mean the framework will take on a broader scope and a new name.
- The use of certificates, as well as how the use will differ by activity type, is limited but it remains unclear if biogenic sinks will be allowed to counterbalance fossil emissions.

In renaming the proposal to explicitly distinguish different types of activities, the ENVI Committee has offered a much-needed clarification that only permanent storage of atmospheric carbon dioxide should be considered as carbon removal. – Dr. Allanah Paul, CDR Research & Technology Advisor, Bellona Europa

The improvements to the proposal are welcome and much needed, but the Certification Framework is in dire need of further safeguards to prevent the scheme from being used to offset avoidable emissions. – Mark Preston Aragonès, Policy Manager Carbon Accounting, Bellona Europa

Context:

In November 2022, the European Commission proposed a Certification Framework for Carbon Removals. This proposal seeks to develop a framework for the development of methodologies which can quantify the climate benefit of various types of activities, with a focus on carbon dioxide removal. Carbon dioxide removal is necessary to counterbalance residual emissions and achieve net-zero emissions. However, the ability to monitor, report and verify how much CO₂ is being removed by such activities is currently lacking and there is a risk overestimating their climate benefit.

As part of the ordinary co-legislative process, the ENVI Committee of the European Parliament has proposed a position on the file which will later be voted on in Plenary on November 20th. The European Council is yet to agree on a general approach, however trilateral negotiations are expected to start before the end of the year.

Further information:

<https://bellona.org/publication/policy-brief-the-crcf-is-not-yet-fit-for-purpose>

<https://bellona.org/publication/eu-must-lead-on-robust-and-coherent-terminology-for-carbon-dioxide-removal>

<https://bellona.org/publication/addressing-differences-in-permanence-of-carbon-dioxide-removal>

<https://bellona.org/publication/the-carbon-credits-conundrum-why-governments-need-to-regulate-voluntary-markets>

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