

July 2023 Newsletter



This month saw the European Parliament vote in favour of the Nature Restoration Law and the EU Green Deal in a closely run vote (312 vs 324 voting and 12 abstentions, against the rejection). This meant that the EPP failed in their attempts to have the proposal blocked during the plenary vote. The text now more closely mirrors the version previously adopted by the Council.

This crucial vote underscores the importance of restoring nature and ecosystems as it has a crucial role to play in combating climate change and biodiversity loss, while also reducing risks to food security. The legislation now moves across to interinstitutional negotiations which will see the Parliament negotiate with the Council to shape the final form of the legislation. The next inter-institutional talks is tentatively scheduled for 5 or 10 October with another subsequent round to take place in November.

However, this victory came at a significant cost, as compromises were made that weakened the legislation. One of the key compromises centres on the removal of the proposed article on the restoration of agricultural lands, including peatland restoration, which is crucial for carbon sequestration and addressing biodiversity loss caused by intensive agriculture.

Additionally, an amendment was adopted to delay the implementation of the law until a study on Europe's food security is conducted. Another concerning aspect is the removal of an article that guarantees access to justice, potentially leading to violations of the Aarhus Convention and uneven implementation across Member States. The text also includes other weakening derogations and exemptions.

In light of the crucial vote, we published a new briefing on the impacts on the law on the farming sector (see <u>here</u>).

Please note that the next edition of our monthly newsletter will be in September.

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Exploring policy options for funding



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nature restoration in the next MFF

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