



The Greens | European Free Alliance
in the European Parliament

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS Greens/EFA briefing

On Tuesday 17 April, the European Parliament will vote on the outcome of trilogue negotiations on two key pieces of climate legislation.

The “**LULUCF**” regulation sets out the rules for how to count emissions from forestry and land use, while the **Effort Sharing Regulation** sets out the commitments to meet the EU’s Paris Agreement commitments.

Together, these give a signal as to whether or not the European Union is on track to deliver on its climate commitments. As the briefing below shows, it’s a mixed picture.

LULUCF: harnessing the power of forests

Report: *Inclusion of greenhouse gas emissions and removals from land use, land use change and forestry into the 2030 climate and energy framework*

Greens/EFA lead MEP: Benedek Jávor

What is the Greens/EFA group position?

This is a better deal than expected. The Greens/EFA group will vote in favour.

The Greens/EFA group voted against the report in plenary, after ALDE and EPP substantially weakened the accounting rules in the forest sector.

While the Paris Agreement requires parties to enhance their natural sinks, the proposed rules would have allowed for significant reduction of EU sinks without accounting for it.

Fortunately and surprisingly, the trilogue negotiations improved upon both the Council and the Parliament’s position.

We successfully pushed for a safeguard for potential loopholes for Member States’ forestry accounting reference levels by requiring a "net-net" accounting at the EU level.

The Greens/EFA group fought hard to ensure the inclusion of a safeguard to ensure that the EU’s carbon sink cannot decline (“net-net” accounting). The EU’s carbon sink will be measured against a base-line of 2000-2009 and cannot fall under this level.

What is LULUCF?

The LULUCF regulation sets out the rules for how to count emissions from land use, land use-change and forestry. The new LULUCF Regulation for 2021-2030 is part of the 2030 energy and climate policy framework for the implementation of the binding targets to

reduce overall EU greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% domestically below 1990 levels by 2030.

In order to keep global warming below 2°C, we have to not only reduce our emissions, but also take CO₂ out of the atmosphere. The best way to do this is through protection and restoration of forests, which create a “carbon sink”, accumulating and storing CO₂.

While counting emissions from vehicles and industry is relatively straightforward, sectors like forestry are much more complex, as their activities have both a positive and negative effect on the carbon sink.

Questions/interview requests

For questions or comment, please contact the Greens/EFA press team, or the office of Benedek Javor: benedek.javor@europarl.europa.eu

Effort sharing regulation: falling short of Paris

Report: *Binding annual greenhouse gas emission reductions to meet commitments under the Paris Agreement*

Greens/EFA lead MEP: Bas Eickhout

What is the Greens/EFA group position?

This is a weak outcome that doesn't come close to delivering on Paris. The Greens/EFA group will vote against.

The ambition level of the overall 2030 climate target proposed is insufficient. Even taking into account the weak overall target, there was still scope to further tighten the overall cap. The agreement could have included more stringent starting points for Member States' binding emission trajectories (even if the end point of the trajectories would be the same, for climate, the cumulative emissions are relevant).

As it stands, the regulation will merely act as a safety net but will drive little or no additional reduction efforts. Indeed, in a worst-case scenario, it would fail to even guarantee meeting the 30% reduction share assigned to the non-ETS sectors.

What are these targets for?

The proposal for the new 2020-2030 Effort Sharing Regulation is part of the 2030 energy and climate policy framework and implementation of the binding target to reduce overall EU greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% domestically below 1990 levels by 2030, as agreed by the European Council in October 2014. It establishes annual, binding greenhouse gas emission targets for sectors not included in the EU Emissions Trading System, such as transport (except aviation and international maritime shipping), buildings, agriculture and waste.

Questions/interview requests

For questions or comment, please contact the Greens/EFA press team or Bas Eickhout's press officer, Dirk van den Bosch.

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