

## Frequently Asked Questions: Expert Group on Carbon Removals

### **When will the Commission adopt the legislative proposal to establish a regulatory framework for the voluntary certification of carbon removals?**

The Commission will propose a regulatory EU framework for the voluntary certification of carbon removals in the fourth quarter of 2022. The voluntary certification framework should ensure the transparent identification of carbon farming and industrial solutions that unambiguously remove carbon from the atmosphere. The Expert Group will assist the Commission on aspects related to its implementation, such as:

1. in the preparation of policy initiatives and related legislative proposals in the field of carbon removals, covering both industrial and nature-based carbon removal initiatives (carbon farming);
2. to bring about an exchange of experiences and good practices from existing public and private initiatives in the field of carbon removals, including quantification, monitoring and reporting of carbon removals, and other criteria, such as additionality, durability, environmental integrity, and transparency;
3. to establish cooperation and coordination between the Commission, Member States and stakeholders on questions relating to the implementation of Union legislation, programmes and policies in the field of carbon removals;
4. to assist DG CLIMA in the preparation of relevant delegated acts;
5. to assist DG CLIMA in the early preparation of relevant implementing acts, before submission to the committee in accordance with Regulation (EU) N°182/2011;
6. to assist DG CLIMA realising synergies with other policy developments in the land use, forestry and agriculture sector, in particular with regard to Regulation (EU) 2018/841 on Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry, and in the industrial sectors.

### **What topics will the subgroups cover, and when will they be set up?**

DG CLIMA may set up sub-groups dedicated to different categories of carbon removals. The sub-groups will provide technical support to the development of specific methodologies, including for carbon farming, permanent storage and carbon storage in products. Sub-groups shall comply with the [horizontal rules](#) and report to the group. They shall be dissolved as soon as their mandate is fulfilled. Additional members of sub-groups that are not members of the Expert Group shall be selected via a public call for applications.

### **What is the connection between the Expert Group and the 2022 call for a “Network on**

**carbon farming for agricultural and forest soils” (Coordination and Support Action) within Horizon Europe’s Mission “A Soil Deal for Europe”?**

The Commission has launched a call for a [”Network on carbon farming for agricultural and forest soils”](#) (Coordination and Support Action - CSA). **The findings from this Network will deliver valuable input for the discussions in the Expert Group.** Indeed, the Network offers the opportunity to bring together the leading experts from research, farming, industry, and Member States to develop certification standards for carbon farming in Europe.

For this, we are looking for experienced and innovative consortia to help us develop high-quality certification methods for carbon farming within the upcoming legal framework for the certification of carbon removals. The Network should also increase knowledge about carbon farming practices through networking and exchange of experiences, increase capacities for measuring, monitoring and standardising carbon fluxes at the landscape level, and build and coordinate a wide solution-oriented Network of key stakeholders involved in carbon farming.

Please note that the Expert Group will cover all the carbon removal topics (permanent storage, carbon farming and carbon storage in products) while the Network will focus in-depth on soil carbon.

The Network would be granted an **EU contribution of up to EUR 3.00 million.**

[More information on how to apply to the Network](#)

**Are there any other relevant Horizon Europe Missions that are relevant to carbon removals?**

In addition, there is another relevant Horizon Europe Soil Mission call being launched, i.e. [“Monitoring, reporting and verification of soil carbon and greenhouse gases balance”](#) (Research and Innovation Action), which should, among others, develop, standardise and demonstrate methodologies and rules for monitoring, reporting and verifying carbon farming’s gains or losses. The outputs of this call could also feed into the Expert Group and the Network.

**When will the first meeting of the Expert Group take place?**

The first experts will be selected in October 2022 to start working in December of 2022.

**What time commitment is expected from the experts?**

In principle, the group shall meet at least twice per year on Commission premises or via video conference.

**What are the types of experts we are looking for?**

- Approximately 10 individual experts possessing specialist knowledge in the field of carbon removals (covering either industrial or nature-based carbon removals, or monitoring, reporting, certification methodologies relevant to carbon removals) appointed in a personal capacity ('Type A members');
- Individual experts appointed to represent a common interest ('Type B members');
- Approximately 30 representatives of relevant organisations, including, among others, companies and business associations, non-governmental organisations, organisations related to certification, monitoring and reporting of emissions and removals, research organisations, applied research institutes and other stakeholders ('Type C members');
- Member States' competent authorities ('Type D members');
- Representatives from other public entities, including national competent authorities of Norway and Iceland ('Type E members').

### **How are Member States represented in the Expert Group?**

Member State authorities shall nominate a representative as contact person to the Commission. The Member State authorities will be free to appoint corresponding representatives on an ad hoc basis, depending on the meeting agenda of the group. The Member States' authorities may only be represented by civil servants or public employees. Furthermore, the Member States shall ensure that their representatives provide a high level of expertise. In addition, the Commission may decide to establish sub-groups on particular topics upon need and then invite Member States' authorities to nominate their representatives in these sub-groups.

### **Where can I access the information on the progress of the Expert Group?**

All relevant documents, including the agendas, the minutes and the participants' submissions, shall be made available on the Register of Expert Groups. In particular, DG CLIMA shall publish the agenda and other relevant background documents ahead of the meeting, followed by timely publication of minutes. Exceptions to publication shall only be possible where it is deemed that disclosure of a document would undermine the protection of public or private interest as defined in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) N° 1049/20019.

### **Will it be possible to follow the meetings of the Expert Group?**

The work of the Expert Group will be transparent and publicly available. If and where possible, these will be web-streamed and published online to the extent possible.

### **Will an expert receive a remuneration?**

Experts participating in the activities of the group and sub-groups shall not be remunerated for the services they offer. Only Type A members of the Expert Group shall receive remuneration. This means that selected experts with the required specific technical experience and expertise

that is rare given the highly technical nature of the subject will be remunerated for their work for their specific indispensable expertise and advice. These members are individuals that are appointed in their personal capacity and who are to act independently and in the public interest.

### **How can I apply?**

Complete the application by filling out the necessary documents and enclosing a CV and cover letter, and send them by email to [CLIMA-CR-EXPERTGROUP@ec.europa.eu](mailto:CLIMA-CR-EXPERTGROUP@ec.europa.eu), by **15 September 2022, 12 midday, CET**.

1. Register in the European Commission's [expert database](#) - to obtain the expert ID (EX....)
2. Send your CV to [CLIMA-CR-EXPERTGROUP@ec.europa.eu](mailto:CLIMA-CR-EXPERTGROUP@ec.europa.eu), indicating your name, your expert ID (EX....), and if you are a technical, greenhouse gas or financial expert or rapporteur in the subject. (Example email title: Carbon Removals call for experts - Emma Smith - EX01235)

Make sure you:

- Complete all sections of the online application form;
- Add all relevant keywords best describing your expertise and background;
- Add your email address so that you can be contacted;
- Attach an updated CV to the registration;
- Take a look at the [manual for experts](#) for more information.

More details, including tasks and criteria for experts, can be found under the [call for applications](#).