

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
THE CHAIR

Mr Bernd Lange
Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs
XXX
Brussels

IPOL-COM-AGRI D (2022)xx

**Subject: Request for Associated Status under Rules of Procedure 57 for
Commission proposal COD “Carbon removals certification” -
COM(2022) 672**

Dear Chair,

On 30 November 2022, the European Commission adopted the legislative proposal for a regulation establishing a Union certification framework for carbon removals (COM(2022)672final). It has been attributed to three Committees: ENVI, ITRE and AGRI.

With this letter, on behalf of AGRI Committee, I would like to underline that AGRI is open to cooperate with ENVI and ITRE Committee not only on specific aspects but actually the whole breadth and width of the legislative proposal. Accordingly, I would like to submit AGRI request for application of the associated committee procedure with shared and exclusive competences under Rule 57.

The reason for the request for **associated Committee with shared and exclusive competences** is as follows:

This proposals builds-up on previous initiatives to support EU carbon farming schemes such as the Farm to Fork (joint AGRI-ENVI) and the EU Forest Strategy (AGRI lead) as well as LULUCF (ENVI lead) all with the aim to reach climate neutrality in the entire land use sector by 2035.

At the same time, it is a fact that across the EU, many both public and private Carbon farming schemes are already in full operation. This notably includes schemes in France and Germany as well as several other Member states.

A public hearing on the subject of Carbon farming will be organised on 27 February 2023 jointly by ENVI and AGRI Committees to highlight this fact by demonstrating the widespread and successful implementation of Carbon farming schemes in Europe.

The overall objective of the proposal is twofold: ensuring that national greenhouse gas accounting systems actually deliver while at the same time, creating credibility for the carbon farming market, allowing farmers and foresters to pursue this activity as a new business model.

The managers of more than 70% of the total EU land are farmers and foresters. This initiative itself targets first and foremost these two groups in their role as land use managers as clearly stated in the Commission proposal. Their active involvement by means of AGRI Committee throughout the proposal is therefore of crucial importance.

More specifically, the proposal refers to the following concrete issues of **AGRI exclusive competence**, in line with Annex VI, notably as regards the immediate operation and development of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP):

- **Article 4.2 and 4.9** in terms of establishing the national baselines (CAP National Strategic Plans, NSP)
- **Article 5.1 and 5.2** programming the Agriculture, Environment and Climate Measures (AECM) in the CAP National Strategic Plans, NSP
- **Article 6.3** on the Governance structure including certification bodies, registries and others (see CAP FMM horizontal regulation)
- **Article 8.1 to 8.3** on specific conditions for carbon farming
- **Article 9.1** on the reference to the Farm Advisory Services (FAS) for carbon farming

It is a fact that this proposal concerns in its vast majority land use managers such as farmers and foresters as its very target. Therefore, in order to allow for an efficient cooperation between the Committees from the start and throughout the process with the aim of tabling a balanced proposal for vote in Plenary, the most adequate approach is to grant AGRI associated Committee status under Rule 57 with shared and exclusive competences.

I would be grateful if you could include this request in the agenda of the next meeting of the Conference of Committee Chairs.

Yours sincerely,



Norbert Lins

CC: Pascal Canfin, Chair of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety