



Mr. Robert Telus
Minister of Agriculture and Rural
Development of the Republic of Poland
Wspólna 30
00-930 Warsaw

Brussels, 27 September 2023

Open letter: Draft Regulation on Nature Restoration : The importance of restoring nature and improving biodiversity through agroecology

Dear Mr. Robert Telus,

I am allowing myself to reach out to you in the name of Agroecology Europe, the European association promoting agroecology as a set of practices, a science and a movement across Europe, reacting to the document 'The impact of the draft Regulation on Nature Restoration for Agriculture'¹ that the Polish delegation disseminated and presented in the AGRIFISH Council on 18 September 2023.

Agroecology Europe highlights the contradiction and short-term approach stating that *"the objectives of agricultural policy must focus primarily on encouraging farmers to manage a rational economy and guarantee food security in the EU and on a global scale"*.

We would like to remind that this supposed opposition between socio-economic and food security objectives, on the one hand, and biodiversity conservation objectives, on the other, are misleading narratives that are not scientifically grounded. In our commitment to supporting the development of public policies that align with scientific evidences and the common good, Agroecology Europe emphasises the utmost importance and urgent necessity of adopting an ambitious law for nature restoration, as the window of opportunity to improve ecosystem resilience, restore biodiversity and fight against climate change - three cornerstones for EU and global food security² - narrows.

This statement is one of a series of unfounded declarations highlighting the impacts of nature restoration objectives on land managers, especially farmers, as well as the consequences for food security. As 6000 scientists from all over the EU have recalled in an open letter published in July 2023, **conserving 20% of**

¹ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-13057-2023-INIT/en/pdf>

² Kerr, Rachel & Madsen, Sidney & Stüber, Moritz & Liebert, Jeffrey & Enloe, Stephanie & Borghino, Noémie & Parros, Phoebe & Mutyambai, Daniel & Prudhon, Marie & Wezel, A.. (2021). Can agroecology improve food security and nutrition? A review. Global Food Security

(semi)natural habitat in farmed landscapes is both possible and desirable to mitigate climate change and increase biodiversity and associated ecosystem services, ultimately enhancing long-term food security³.

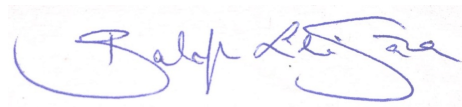
Our recommendations:

- Keep the Article 9 (1) (2) (3) of the [Commission proposal COM/2022/304](#) on the Restoration of agricultural ecosystems and keep all the indicators mentioned in Art 9 (2).
- Ensure that the binding target of at least 10% of the Union's agricultural area with high-diversity landscape features is included as it is an indicator of reference in Article 9 and a monitoring tool in article 14.
- Integrate specific targets for drained peatlands in Article 9 (4) based on the EC's original proposal.
- The possibility of adopting derogations for Member States should be heavily limited and regulated in order to keep the efficiency of this law and maintain the achievement of the targets.

We are at your disposal to provide supplementary information and would be delighted to set a meeting for further exchanges with you and your team.

Sincerely yours,

Lili Balogh
President of Agroecology Europe



³ Guy Pe'er, et al. (2023). Scientists support the EU's Green Deal and reject the unjustified argumentation against the Sustainable Use Regulation and the Nature Restoration Law