
European Peat Industry – Developments in Brussels

AULA EUROPE
1 December 2022

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Policy Trends & Priorities in the European Union



Policy Trends Affecting the Peat Industry



War in Ukraine



Price of energy



Strategic autonomy



Food production & prices



Biodiversity



Sustainable finance

Future Policy Priorities for the Peat Industry

- **Sustainable Finance Taxonomy**

- Taxonomy's second delegated act (DA2) will give recommendations to financial institutions on how they should view the use and production of peat in relation to issuing loans
- Taxonomy's statements on peat will form the basis for how peat is seen in future EU legislation

- **EU Nature Restoration Targets**

- The initiative will set binding peatland restoration targets, allowing national flexibilities and differences between Member States (work still in progress, current focus on peatlands under agricultural use)

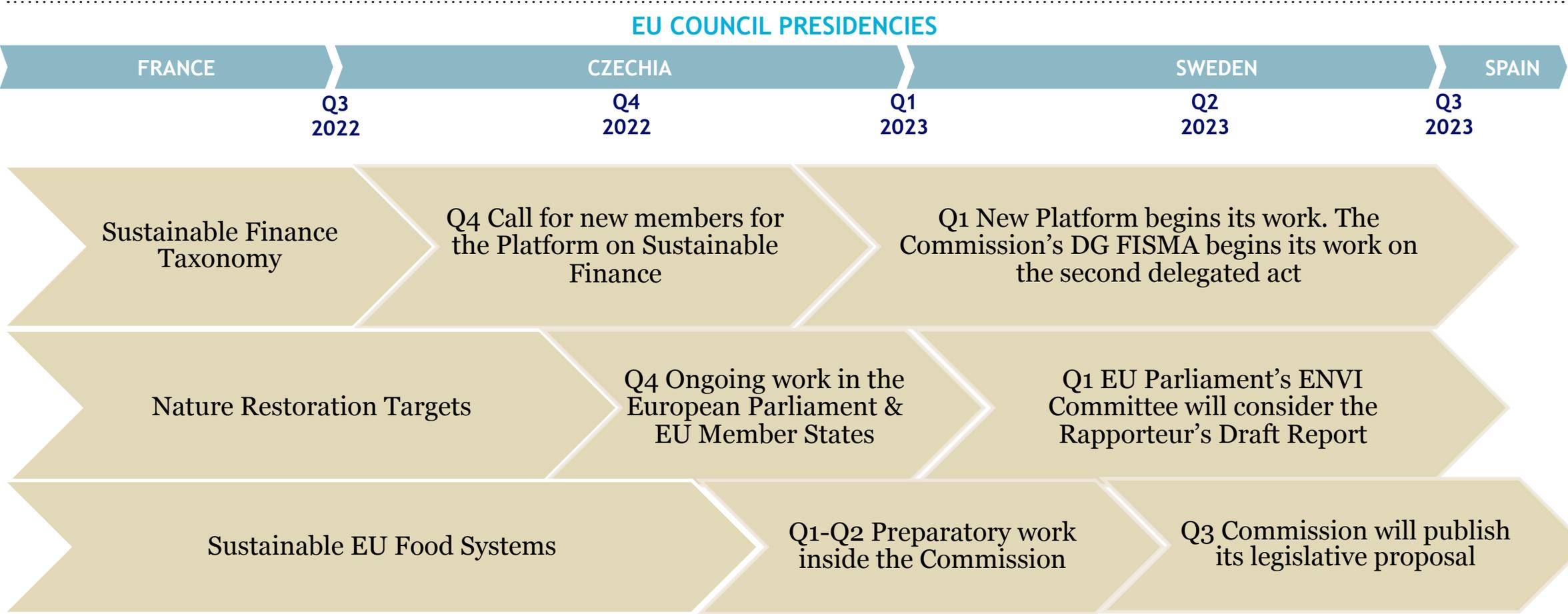
- **Sustainable EU Food Systems**

- The initiative will bring sustainability aspects into all food related policies

- **Afforestation targets, forest & biodiversity strategies for 2030**

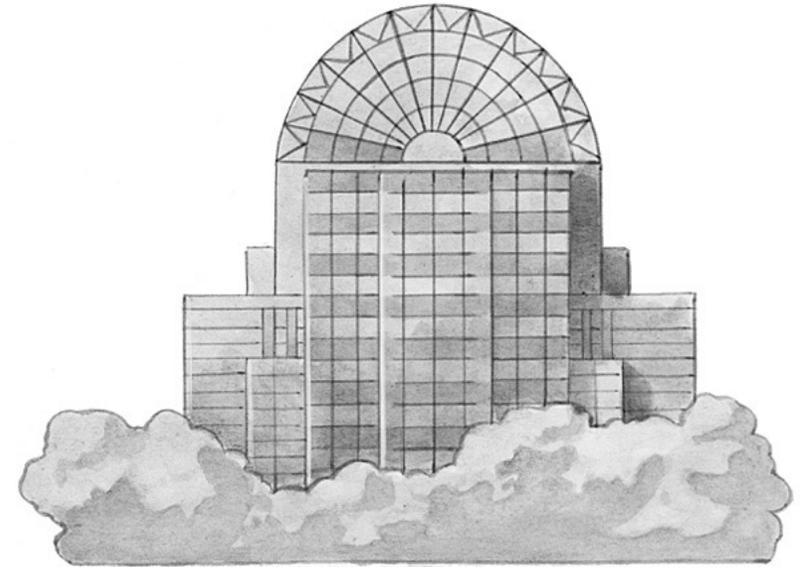
- Planting 3 billion additional trees in the EU by 2030
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Windows for Influencing



European Elections & Themes for EU Advocacy

GETTING THE INDUSTRY MESSAGE
ACROSS TO EU DECISION MAKERS



State of the Current Commission

- The von der Leyen Commission reached its halfway point in the Summer of 2022.
- The Commission will focus on its priorities and try to get as much finished as possible
 - The need for the green transition is not widely questioned
 - The war in Ukraine has emphasised the need for a systemic transformation and the importance of stronger strategic autonomy
- The war in Ukraine has brought food security issues to the top of the Commission's agenda, making it easier to highlight horticultural peat's importance.

The Next European Commission (2024–2029)

- The European Parliament elections will take place in June 2024. After the elections, the EU Member States and the new European Parliament will elect a new Commission and approve its work programme.
- Commission's work programme includes its priorities for the entire term. Priorities for the von der Leyen Commission included:
 - Setting the 2050 carbon neutrality goal into legislation
 - 55 % emissions reduction goal for 2030
- Preparatory work for the next Commission's work programme will begin in 2023 → it is important to influence this through the Commission, Member State actors, and the European Parliament.

What should/shouldn't the EU Commission do regarding the use and production of peat during its next term?

Composition of the Next Commission

- If Russia attacked Ukraine today, how would this impact the EU's agenda?
- New or upcoming centre-right leaning governments in multiple EU Member States.
- Political situation in large European countries affects the future Commission
 - Germany: Transformation of the energy sector, strong influence of the Greens
 - France: Macron lost his majority in the French Parliament
 - Italy: New populist government
 - Spain: General elections in December 2023

Themes for Future EU Level Advocacy

The 'Estonian solution', new sustainable possibilities regarding the use of peat

Food prices, availability of produce dependent on peat based growing media

Price increases in agricultural production (energy, fuel, fertilizers, etc.)

Advantages of efficient & safe greenhouse growing enabled by peat

How to increase awareness in the EU in a way that benefits the peat industry?

Other innovations related to peat

Energy independence

Horticultural peat in enabling the greening of cities and urban farming

EU's strategic autonomy regarding vital raw materials

Thank you!

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