

# Nature Restoration Regulation

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Eurelectric proposed amendments

[December 2022]

Eurelectric represents the interests of the electricity industry in Europe. Our work covers all major issues affecting our sector. Our members represent the electricity industry in over 30 European countries.

We cover the entire industry from electricity generation and markets to distribution networks and customer issues. We also have affiliates active on several other continents and business associates from a wide variety of sectors with a direct interest in the electricity industry.

## We stand for

The vision of the European power sector is to enable and sustain:

- A vibrant competitive European economy, reliably powered by clean, carbon-neutral energy
- A smart, energy efficient and truly sustainable society for all citizens of Europe

We are committed to lead a cost-effective energy transition by:

**investing** in clean power generation and transition-enabling solutions, to reduce emissions and actively pursue efforts to become carbon-neutral well before mid-century, taking into account different starting points and commercial availability of key transition technologies;

**transforming** the energy system to make it more responsive, resilient and efficient. This includes increased use of renewable energy, digitalisation, demand side response and reinforcement of grids so they can function as platforms and enablers for customers, cities and communities;

**accelerating** the energy transition in other economic sectors by offering competitive electricity as a transformation tool for transport, heating and industry;

**embedding** sustainability in all parts of our value chain and take measures to support the transformation of existing assets towards a zero carbon society;

**innovating** to discover the cutting-edge business models and develop the breakthrough technologies that are indispensable to allow our industry to lead this transition.

Dépôt légal: D/2022/12.105/52

## Key Messages

**Eurelectric welcomes the European Commission’s proposal for a Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR).** The European electricity sector has made intensive efforts to develop synergies between nature restoration and renewable energy deployment while still strengthening energy independence. Best practice examples of this are illustrated in [Eurelectric’s Power Plant project](#). Based on our experience, we are convinced that the proposal needs to be improved in order to fully exploit the available potential and achieve the EU's decarbonisation and biodiversity goals.

In particular, we recommend the following changes:

- **The need to find “win-win” solutions.** Investing in renewable energy to reduce the EU's energy dependency and increase security of supply contributes significantly to tackling climate change while enabling benefits for biodiversity conservation and society. Therefore, we call for an exemption of renewable energy generation facilities, their connection to the grid, the grid itself, and storage assets. ([Amt 3](#), [Amt 4](#), [Amt 5](#), [Amt 6](#), [Amt 7](#))
- **A ‘zero-deterioration’ approach hinders the deployment of renewables and slows the energy transition.** ([Amt 1](#), [Amt 2](#))
- **Clear definitions in line with existing legislation.** This is essential and will streamline the implementation of the regulation. ([Amt 2](#), [Amt 5](#), [Amt 8](#), [Amt 12](#))
- **Less than 3% of the barriers in European rivers are used for hydropower generation.** Hydropower plant operators have made great efforts to comply with existing European environmental regulation, including the WFD and Nature Directives. Eurelectric insists that EU hydropower, which provides renewable energy as well as firm and flexible capacity and thus makes an important contribution to mitigating climate and energy crisis, must not be curtailed. ([Amt 9](#), [Amt 16](#))
- **Synergies between nature restoration and renewable electricity generation must be activated.** For this purpose, Eurelectric urges that the development of National Restoration Plans (NRPs) shall be consistent with plants and designated areas necessary to fulfil the national energy and climate plans (NECPs). ([Amt 11](#), [Amt 15](#))
- **Early and effective opportunity for participation in the development of NRPs and accompanying transparency is key.** Eurelectric strongly encourages the participation of stakeholders in the drafting process of NRPs to ensure a successful implementation while providing guidance for investment decisions in renewable energy sources. In addition, transparency is essential to ensure the predictability of investments in renewable projects in full compliance with the protection and restoration of biodiversity. ([Amt 13](#), [Amt 14](#), [Amt 17](#))

## Amendment Proposals

*Text proposed by Commission*

*Amendment proposal by Eurelectric*

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### Amendment 1

#### Article 4 (6) – Restoration of terrestrial, coastal and freshwater ecosystems

Member States shall ensure that the areas that are subject to restoration measures in accordance with paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 show a continuous improvement in the condition of the habitat types listed in Annex I until good condition is reached, and a continuous improvement of the quality of the habitats of the species referred to in paragraph 3, until the sufficient quality of those habitats is reached. Member States shall ensure that areas in which good condition has been reached, and in which the sufficient quality of the habitats of the species has been reached, do not deteriorate.

Member States shall ~~promote ensure~~ that the areas that are subject to restoration measures in accordance with paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 show ~~a continuous~~ improvement in the condition of the habitat types listed in Annex I ~~until good condition is reached~~, and ~~a continuous~~ improvement of the quality of the habitats of the species referred to in paragraph 3, until the sufficient quality of those habitats is reached. Member States shall ~~promote ensure~~ that areas in which good condition has been reached, and in which the sufficient quality of the habitats of the species has been reached, do not deteriorate.

#### *Justification*

*The non-deterioration provision and reaching good condition of habitat types that also would apply to areas outside protected areas needs to include some flexibility in order not to jeopardize renewable energy production and electricity grid targets. It is also unclear how this new provision would be applied alongside the current nature protection regulation. The implementation of the WFD with a similar zero-deterioration clause for water bodies and a very strict interpretation of reaching good status of water bodies have made the operating environment very unpredictable.*

## Amendment Proposals

*Text proposed by Commission*

*Amendment proposal by Eurelectric*

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### Amendment 2

#### Article 4 (7) – Restoration of terrestrial, coastal and freshwater ecosystems

Member States shall ensure that areas where the habitat types listed in Annex I occur do not deteriorate.

Member States shall ~~ensure~~ **promote** that areas where the habitat types listed in Annex I occur do not **significantly** deteriorate **in relation to the objectives of the Directive 92/43/EEC.**

#### *Justification*

*The Habitat Directive (92/43/EEC) targets to maintain or restore the natural habitats of Community interest at the favourable status. The Directive requires that measures that may have a significant effect must be assessed in relation to the site's conservation objectives. Therefore, the Habitats Directive allows measures that have less than significant effects to be implemented without any assessment. We therefore emphasize the need for the Nature Restoration Regulation to be based on the same principles as the Habitats Directive.*

## Amendment Proposals

*Text proposed by Commission*

*Amendment proposal by Eurelectric*

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### Amendment 3

#### Article 4 (8) – Restoration of terrestrial, coastal and freshwater ecosystems

Outside Natura 2000 sites, the non-fulfilment of the obligations set out in paragraphs 6 and 7 is justified if it is caused by:

- (a) force majeure;
- (b) unavoidable habitat transformations which are directly caused by climate change; or
- (c) a project of overriding public interest for which no less damaging alternative solutions are available, to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Outside Natura 2000 sites, the non-fulfilment of the obligations set out in paragraphs 6 and 7 is justified if it is caused by:

- (a) force majeure;
- (b) unavoidable habitat transformations which are directly caused by climate change; or
- (c) plants to produce energy from renewable sources, their connection to the grid, the grid itself or storage assets that contribute to climate neutrality by 2050; or**
- (d) a project of overriding public interest for which no less damaging alternative solutions are available, to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

#### *Justification*

*By mid-century, climate change will be a major cause of biodiversity loss. To address these and achieve the European Union's ambitious goal of carbon neutrality by 2050, renewable energy sources (RES) are central. Eurelectric supports well-designed safeguards to limit the impact on the environment and advocates for effective mitigation and restoration measures. However, a "zero-deterioration" approach hinders the deployment of renewables, slows the energy transition, and exacerbates climate change. Therefore, we propose an exemption for renewable energy generation facilities, their connection to the grid, the grid itself, or storage assets. The already considered reference to the notion of "overriding public interest" is perceived very positively. The recognition of this principle is a significant step forward to achieve the expansion of RES envisaged by Fit-for-55 and REPowerEU. In this context, we urge harmonization between the definitions and requirements in the Nature Restoration Regulation and the revised Renewable Energy Directive.*

*Regarding freshwater ecosystems, requirements for restoration could affect hydropower plants located in designated restoration areas. It is therefore of utmost importance that these plants are not restricted in operation if they comply with the Water Framework Directive (WFD 2000/60/EC). The hydropower sector is striving to meet the requirements defined in the WFD, using enormous financial resources. In many cases, the commitment and the financial contribution by hydropower plant operators enabled ecological measures in the first place and spared the public sector extensive costs. Eurelectric emphasises the close link between nature restoration and water policy.*

*Consideration and harmonisation of interpretations and provisions along with existing directives and guidance documents is of highest relevance.*

## **Amendment Proposals**

*Text proposed by Commission*

*Amendment proposal by Eurelectric*

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### Amendment 4

#### Article 4 (9) – Restoration of terrestrial, coastal and freshwater ecosystems

For Natura 2000 sites, the non-fulfilment of the obligations set out in paragraphs 6 and 7, is justified if it is caused by:

- (a) force majeure;
- (b) unavoidable habitat transformations which are directly caused by climate change; or
- (c) a plan or project authorised in accordance with Article 6(4) of the Directive 92/43/EEC.

For Natura 2000 sites, the non-fulfilment of the obligations set out in paragraphs 6 and 7, is justified if it is caused by:

- (a) force majeure;
- (b) unavoidable habitat transformations which are directly caused by climate change; or
- (c) **plants to produce energy from renewable sources, their connection to the grid, the grid itself or storage assets that contribute to climate neutrality by 2050; or**
- (d) a plan or project authorised in accordance with Article 6(4) of the Directive 92/43/EEC

#### *Justification*

*By mid-century, climate change will be a major cause of biodiversity loss. To address these and achieve the European Union's ambitious goal of carbon neutrality by 2050, renewable energy sources (RES) are central. Eurelectric supports well-designed safeguards to limit the impact on the environment and advocates for effective mitigation and restoration measures. However, a "zero-deterioration" approach hinders the deployment of renewables, slows the energy transition, and exacerbates climate change. Therefore, we propose an exemption for renewable energy generation facilities, their connection to the grid, the grid itself, or storage assets.*

*Regarding freshwater ecosystems, requirements for restoration could affect hydropower plants located in designated restoration areas. It is therefore of utmost importance that these plants are not restricted in operation if they comply with the Water Framework Directive (WFD 2000/60/EC). The hydropower sector is striving to meet the requirements defined in the WFD, using enormous financial resources. In many cases, the commitment and the financial contribution by hydropower plant operators enabled ecological measures in the first place and spared the public sector extensive costs. Eurelectric emphasises the close link between nature restoration and water policy. Consideration and harmonisation of interpretations and provisions along with existing directives and guidance documents is of highest relevance.*

## Amendment Proposals

*Text proposed by Commission*

*Amendment proposal by Eurelectric*

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### Amendment 5

Article 4 (new paragraph) – Restoration of terrestrial, coastal and freshwater ecosystems

**When putting in place restoration measures referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, Member States shall address areas, which are those that are not needed for renewable energy generation.**

#### *Justification*

*Negative impacts on renewable energy facilities need to be avoided, since a reduction in electricity generation from renewable sources would jeopardize both the achievement of climate targets and security of supply and would have harmful long-term impact on biodiversity.*

## Amendment Proposals

*Text proposed by Commission*

*Amendment proposal by Eurelectric*

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### Amendment 6

#### Art 6 (1) – Restoration of urban ecosystems

Member States shall ensure that there is no net loss of urban green space, and of urban tree canopy cover by 2030, compared to 2021, in all cities and in towns and suburbs.

Member States shall ensure that there is no net loss of urban green space, and of urban tree canopy cover by 2030, compared to 2021, in all cities and in towns and suburbs. **The areas necessary for renewable energy generation facilities, their connection to the grid, the grid itself, or storage assets needed to fulfill 2050 climate targets are not counted as losses of green space or tree canopy.**

#### *Justification*

*The expansion of renewable energy generation facilities, their connection to the grid, the grid itself or storage assets contribute significantly to decarbonization of the power system and thus to European Union's goal of climate neutrality by 2050. As climate change poses a significant threat to biodiversity, these projects mitigate negative impacts and should therefore not be counted as losses of green space or tree canopy.*

## Amendment Proposals

*Text proposed by Commission*

*Amendment proposal by Eurelectric*

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### Amendment 7

#### Art 6 (2) – Restoration of urban ecosystems

Member States shall ensure that there is an increase in the total national area of urban green space in cities and in towns and suburbs of at least 3 % of the total area of cities and of towns and suburbs in 2021, by 2040, and at least 5 % by 2050. In addition, Member States shall ensure:

- (a) a minimum of 10 % urban tree canopy cover in all cities and in towns and suburbs by 2050; and
- (b) a net gain of urban green space that is integrated into existing and new buildings and infrastructure developments, including through renovations and renewals, in all cities and in towns and suburbs.

Member States shall ensure that there is an increase in the total national area of urban green space in cities and in towns and suburbs of at least 3 % of the total area of cities and of towns and suburbs in 2021, by 2040, and at least 5 % by 2050. In addition, Member States shall ensure:

- (a) a minimum of 10 % urban tree canopy cover in all cities and in towns and suburbs by 2050; and
- (b) a net gain of urban green space that is integrated into existing and new buildings and infrastructure developments, including through renovations and renewals, in all cities and in towns and suburbs. **The areas necessary for renewable energy generation facilities, their connection to the grid, the grid itself, or storage assets needed to fulfill 2050 climate targets are not counted as losses of green space or tree canopy.**

#### *Justification*

*The expansion of renewable energy generation facilities, their connection to the grid, the grid itself or storage assets contribute significantly to decarbonization of the power system and thus to European Union's goal of climate neutrality by 2050. As climate change poses a significant threat to biodiversity, these projects mitigate negative impacts and should therefore not be counted as losses of green space or tree canopy.*

## Comment on Article 7

*Text proposed by Commission*

*Amendment proposal by Eurelectric*

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### Amendment 8

#### Article 7 (1) – Restoration of the natural connectivity of rivers

Member States shall make an inventory of barriers to longitudinal and lateral connectivity of surface waters and identify the barriers that need to be removed to contribute to the achievement of the restoration targets set out in Article 4 of this Regulation and of the objective of restoring at least 25 000 km of rivers into free-flowing rivers in the Union by 2030, **without prejudice to Directive 2000/60/EC, in particular Articles 4(3), 4(5) and 4(7)** thereof, and Regulation 1315/2013, in particular Article 15 thereof

#### *Justification*

*In identifying the barriers that need to be removed to achieve the restoration target, **reference to the Water Framework Directive is crucial because it allows for separate consideration of heavily modified water bodies essential to sustainable human activities.** It is obvious, that the restoration provisions would conflict with these exemptions and jeopardize the generation of clean, renewable, and flexible electricity provided hydropower.*

*With close to 375 TWh/year, hydropower represents more than 12 % of the energy mix and 33 % of the renewable production in the EU. The 150 GW of EU hydro capacity provides zero-emissions energy, and secure and flexible capacity that supplies quick response services for system operation. Besides the important role it plays in the energy system, hydro facilities also provide services to communities. These services are generally not remunerated and are provided in the areas of: (i) water management (flood control, water level stabilization); (ii) ecosystem services (water quality monitoring, ecosystems maintenance); and (iii) regional development (fresh water supply, irrigation, recreation and tourism).*

## Amendment Proposals

*Text proposed by Commission*

*Amendment proposal by Eurelectric*

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### Amendment 9

#### Article 7 (2) – Restoration of the natural connectivity of rivers

Member States shall remove the barriers to longitudinal and lateral connectivity of surface waters identified under paragraph 1 of this Article, in accordance with the plan for their removal referred to in Article 12(2), point (f). When removing barriers, Member States shall primarily address obsolete barriers, which are those that are no longer needed for renewable energy generation, inland navigation, water supply or other uses.

Member States shall remove the barriers to longitudinal and lateral connectivity of surface waters identified under paragraph 1 of this Article, in accordance with the plan for their removal referred to in Article 12(2), point (f). When removing barriers, Member States shall **primarily** address obsolete barriers, which are those **without actual or potential use** ~~are no longer needed~~ for renewable energy generation, inland navigation, water supply, **flood protection** or other uses.

#### *Justification*

*Eurelectric supports the removal of obsolete barriers, not as a goal in itself but as one tool to improve biodiversity. However, the "primarily obsolete" wording proposed by the European Commission leaves room for interpretation with implications for active hydropower plants, which are out of scope when removing obsolete barriers to achieve 25,000 km of free-flowing rivers. With close to 375 TWh/year, hydropower represents more than 12 % of the energy mix and 33 % of the renewable production in the EU. The EU's 150 GW of hydro capacity, which provides zero-emission energy and secure and flexible capacity and thus makes an important contribution to mitigating the climate and energy crisis, must not be curtailed.*

*Referring to the guidance document "Barrier Removal for River Restoration" published by the European Commission in December 2021 related to the Biodiversity Strategy 2030, when defining and prioritizing 'obsolete barriers', assessments shall consider all environmental and socio-economic costs and benefits to depict a comprehensive picture. In addition to existing usages, potential future ones as well as the multi-purpose use of reservoirs and dams should be considered as well, notably in the context of climate change. For example, dams can limit the effects of droughts by storing water, raising and stabilizing groundwater levels, and providing refuge areas for aquatic species. In addition, dams can also reduce the impact of floods by increasing runoff retention and reducing erosion of the riverbed. Water bodies designated as Heavily Modified Water Bodies (HMWB) under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) are clearly out of scope of the target.*

## Amendment Proposals

*Text proposed by Commission*

*Amendment proposal by Eurelectric*

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### Amendment 10

#### Article 10 (2) – Restoration of forest ecosystems

Member States shall achieve an increasing trend at national level of each of the following indicators in forest ecosystems, as further set out in Annex VI, measured in the period from the date of entry into force of this Regulation until 31 December 2030, and every three years thereafter, until the satisfactory levels identified in accordance with Article 11(3) are reached:

- (a) standing deadwood;
- (b) lying deadwood;
- (c) share of forests with uneven-aged structure;
- (d) forest connectivity;
- (e) common forest bird index;
- (f) stock of organic carbon.

Member States shall achieve an increasing trend at national level of ~~each of the following~~ indicators in forest ecosystems. **The indicators may contain following aspects a)-f) which are, as further set-out described** in Annex VI, measured in the period from the date of entry into force of this Regulation until 31 December 2030, and every three years thereafter, until the satisfactory levels identified in accordance with Article 11(3) are reached:

- (a) standing deadwood;
- (b) lying deadwood;
- (c) share of forests with uneven-aged structure;
- (d) forest connectivity;
- (e) common forest bird index;
- (f) stock of organic carbon.

#### *Justification*

*These indicators are related to all forest ecosystems regardless of whether they are covered in scope of Directive 92/43/EEC or not. The forest areas are very different in many aspects and hence the strictly defined general indicators will lead to unappropriated monitoring. The common monitoring measures of the forests should be defined by Member States and set in national restoration plan.*

## Amendment Proposals

*Text proposed by Commission*

*Amendment proposal by Eurelectric*

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### Amendment 11

#### Article 11 (6) – Preparation of the national restoration plans

Member States shall coordinate the development of national restoration plans with the designation of the renewables go-to areas. During the preparation of the nature restoration plans, Member States shall ensure synergies with the already designated renewables go-to areas and ensure that the functioning of the renewables go-to areas, including the permitting procedures applicable in the renewables go-to areas foreseen by Directive (EU) 2018/2001 remain unchanged.

Member States shall coordinate the development of national restoration plans with **existing renewable energy facilities and the designation of areas necessary to fulfil national energy and climate plans (NECPs)**. During the preparation of the nature restoration plans, Member States shall **safeguard the existing renewable energy production that helps to secure the energy supply, and** ensure synergies with the already designated renewables go-to areas and ensure that the functioning of the renewables go-to areas, including the permitting procedures applicable in the renewables go-to areas foreseen by Directive (EU) 2018/2001 remain unchanged.

#### *Justification*

*In principle, Eurelectric welcomes the reference to the revised Renewable Energy Directive and the associated acceleration of permitting procedures in renewable go-to areas. However, it is emphasized that in the development of the Nature Restoration Plans, besides go-to areas, all areas required to fulfill the national energy and climate plans (NECPs) as well as existing renewable energy generation facilities must be considered. A reduction in electricity generation from renewable sources would jeopardize both the achievement of climate targets and security of supply and would have harmful long-term impact on biodiversity.*

## Amendment Proposals

*Text proposed by Commission*

*Amendment proposal by Eurelectric*

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### Amendment 12

#### Article 11 (7) – Preparation of the national restoration plans

When preparing their national restoration plans, Member States shall take the following into account:

- (c) measures for achieving good ecological and chemical status of water bodies included in river basin management plans prepared in accordance with Directive 2000/60/EC;

When preparing their national restoration plans, Member States shall take the following into account:

- (c) measures for achieving good ecological and chemical status of water bodies included in river basin management plans prepared in accordance with Directive 2000/60/EC, **without prejudice to the exemptions set out in articles 4(3), 4(4), 4(5) and 4(7) thereof;**

#### *Justification*

*Although the current wording targets natural water bodies (good ecological and chemical status), there are potential ambiguities related to artificial and heavily modified water bodies (good ecological potential) which the proposed addition would clarify.*

## Amendment Proposals

*Text proposed by Commission*

*Amendment proposal by Eurelectric*

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### Amendment 13

#### Article 11 (11) – Preparation of the national restoration plans

Member States shall ensure that the preparation of the restoration plan is open, inclusive and effective and that the public is given early and effective opportunities to participate in its elaboration. Consultations shall comply with the requirements set out in Articles 4 to 10 of Directive 2001/42/EC. Consultations shall comply with the requirements set out in Articles 4 to 10 of Directive 2001/42/EC.

Member States shall ensure that the preparation of the restoration plan is open, inclusive and effective and that the public **as well as all the stakeholders affected by restoration measures** is given early and effective opportunities to participate in its elaboration. Consultations shall comply with the requirements set out in Articles 4 to 10 of Directive 2001/42/EC. Consultations shall comply with the requirements set out in Articles 4 to 10 of Directive 2001/42/EC.

#### *Justification*

*Early and effective opportunity for participation in the development of the restoration plans must be ensured not only for the public, but also for the stakeholders involved. This is essential for a project developer of renewable energy facilities to get a full picture of the requirements and to ensure predictability of investments.*

## Amendment Proposals

*Text proposed by Commission*

*Amendment proposal by Eurelectric*

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### Amendment 14

Article 12 (b' new) – Content of the national restoration plans (Iberdrola)

**(b') a precise geographic delimitation of areas listed in Annexes I and II.**

#### *Justification*

*Eurelectric is committed to improve the state of natural ecosystems in the EU. EC's proposal is received as a crucial step toward reducing and preventing the impacts of climate change, avoiding biodiversity loss, and enhancing nature conservation. However, this goal must be compatible with the EU's other environmental objectives and in particular with climate change mitigation, which requires a complete decarbonization of the EU economy through massive investments in renewable technologies. Furthermore, REPowerEU recognizes the need to accelerate this transition to achieve EU energy independence. This amendment promotes the improvement of transparency of national restoration plans to facilitate investments in renewable technologies in full compliance with biodiversity protection and restoration.*

## Amendment Proposals

*Text proposed by Commission*

*Amendment proposal by Eurelectric*

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### Amendment 15

#### Article 12 (2) – Content of the national restoration plans (Iberdrola)

(j) the estimated co-benefits for climate change mitigation associated with the restoration measures over time, as well as wider socio-economic benefits of those measures comprising all the measures taken to accelerate the permitting of renewable energy sources;

(j) the estimated co-benefits for climate change mitigation associated with the restoration measures over time **assuming a coordination with the designation of areas necessary to fulfil the national energy and climate plans (NECPs) and the elaboration of the network development plans defined in Directive (EU) 2019/944 of 5 June, 2019**, as well as wider socio-economic benefits of those measures comprising all the measures taken to accelerate the permitting of renewable energy sources **and their efficient integration into the electricity grid;**

#### *Justification*

*Eurelectric urges harmonization between the definitions and requirements in the Nature Restoration Regulation and other legislation, contributing to EU's carbon neutrality goal by 2050. This amendment promotes the improvement of transparency of national restoration plans to facilitate investments in renewable technologies in full compliance with biodiversity protection and restoration.*

## Amendment Proposals

*Text proposed by Commission*

*Amendment proposal by Eurelectric*

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### Amendment 16

#### Article 12 (2) – Content of the national restoration plans (Iberdrola)

(e) the inventory of barriers and the barriers identified for removal in accordance with Article 7(1), the plan for their removal in accordance with Article 7(2) and an estimate of the length of free-flowing rivers to be achieved by the removal of those barriers by 2030 and by 2050, and any other measures to re-establish the natural functions of floodplains in accordance with Article 7(3);.

(e) the inventory of barriers and the barriers identified for removal in accordance with Article 7(1), the plan for their removal in accordance with Article 7(2), **including the cost-benefit analysis associated with the removal of such barriers** and an estimate of the length of free-flowing rivers to be achieved by the removal of those barriers by 2030 and by 2050, and any other measures to re-establish the natural functions of floodplains in accordance with Article 7(3);.

#### *Justification*

*The purpose of these amendments is to ensure that the promotion and restoration of biodiversity in rivers and other water bodies is compatible with fully sustainable management of resources, which is addressed in Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy. This means providing certainty to operators and potential investors, clarifying the indicative nature of the goal of restoring at least 25,000 km of free-flowing rivers, and ensuring that barrier removal is assessed according to cost-benefit criteria under harmonized guidelines and presented in restoration plans.*

## Amendment Proposals

*Text proposed by Commission*

*Amendment proposal by Eurelectric*

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### Amendment 17

Article 12 (3 new) – Content of the national restoration plans (Iberdrola)

**Member States shall implement a national centralised digital platform to address the areas affected by the restoration plans in each country, reflecting current situation and their expected development (including go-to areas and exceptions for overriding public interest projects).**

#### *Justification*

*Eurelectric is committed to improve the state of natural ecosystems in the EU. EC's proposal is received as a crucial step toward reducing and preventing the impacts of climate change, avoiding biodiversity loss, and enhancing nature conservation. However, this goal must be compatible with the EU's other environmental objectives and in particular with climate change mitigation, which requires a complete decarbonization of the EU economy through massive investments in renewable technologies. Furthermore, REPowerEU recognizes the need to accelerate this transition to achieve EU energy independence. This amendment promotes the improvement of transparency of national restoration plans to facilitate investments in renewable technologies in full compliance with biodiversity protection and restoration.*