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## European Peat Industry – EU Advocacy Overview

AULA EUROPE

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# Political Background & Priorities in the European Union

FALL-WINTER 2022-2023





#### Political Background in the European Union

- Russia's war in Ukraine has placed heavy emphasis on securing the EU's food production & global food security.
- Rising production costs (e.g. energy, electricity, fuel, fertilizers) have impacted the European agricultural sector and the cost & availability of horticultural peat should be seen as a part of this wider picture.
  - Rising costs have led to increasing food prices and protests.
- The term of the current von der Leyen Commission is half over.
  - EU's energy concerns will override other political issues & the Commission will focus on its priorities.
  - The preparatory work for the Work Programme of the next Commission will begin in 2023.
- Despite ongoing challenges, the EU's 'Green legislation' will move forward and affect the national landscape in EU Member States → active advocacy is essential.



#### Upcoming Legislative Priorities for the Peat Industry

- Sustainable Finance Taxonomy
  - Threat: Guiding investment away from the peat sector & de facto limiting the use of peat in plant production
- Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry Regulation (LULUCF)
  - Threat: Overly ambitious and intrusive peatland restoration & rules for the management of peatlands
- EU Nature Restoration Targets
  - Threat: Overly ambitious and intrusive peatland restoration targets
- Other upcoming EU legislation:
  - Certification on Carbon Removals
  - Soil Health Law



## Windows for Influencing

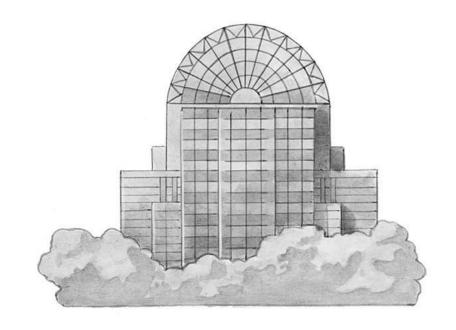
#### **EU COUNCIL PRESIDENCIES**

FRANCE	CZECHIA		SWEDEN	SPAIN
	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q3 2023
Taxonomy	Q3 EU Commission's FISMA begins the wor second delegated act (I	rk on	Term of the current Platform ends. Commission launches a call for new members in October. Commission possibly to publish some parts of the DA2 by the end of the year.	
LULUCF	Q3-Q4 Trilogue nego between Commis Parliament and Memb	sion,	Q4-Q1 Compromise text to be voted on in the Parliament and Council (Member States). Final approval of the legislation.	
Nature Restoration Targets	Q3-Q4 EU Parliament n for the file. EU Membe negotiation	er States begin	Q4-Q1 Ongoing EU Parliament Committee work.	



## Visibility & Alliance Building

GETTING THE INDUSTRY MESSAGE ACROSS TO EU DECISION MAKERS







## Legislative Priorities – Who to Influence

#### **European Commission**

- Commission Cabinets
- Directorates-General
- Public consultations
- Trilogue negotiations

#### **European Parliament**

- MEPs & Committees responsible for legislation
- Committee & Plenary votes
- Trilogue negotiations

#### **Member States**

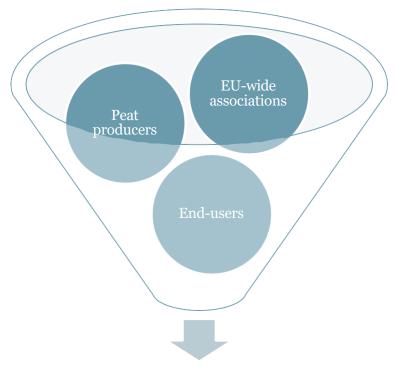
- Agricultural & Environment Ministries
- Member State's EU Embassy attachés
- Trilogue negotiations

- Active monitoring and participation in drafting upcoming EU legislation is vital.
- Regular contacts with national Agricultural & Environment Ministries and national actors in Brussels are especially important.
- The role of horticultural peat in the EU's growing media market is not widely understood. This can lead to uninformed legislation and unintended negative consequence.
- Anti-peat lobby is strong and active in the EU.



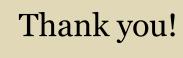
#### Other Stakeholders & Alliance Building

- Mobilizing relevant stakeholders identification of friendly partners.
- Ensuring that the peat industry's message is heard and echoed in different forums through alliance building.
- Activating retailers, EU-wide associations, greenhouse growers etc.



United front & messaging in defending the peat industry





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