



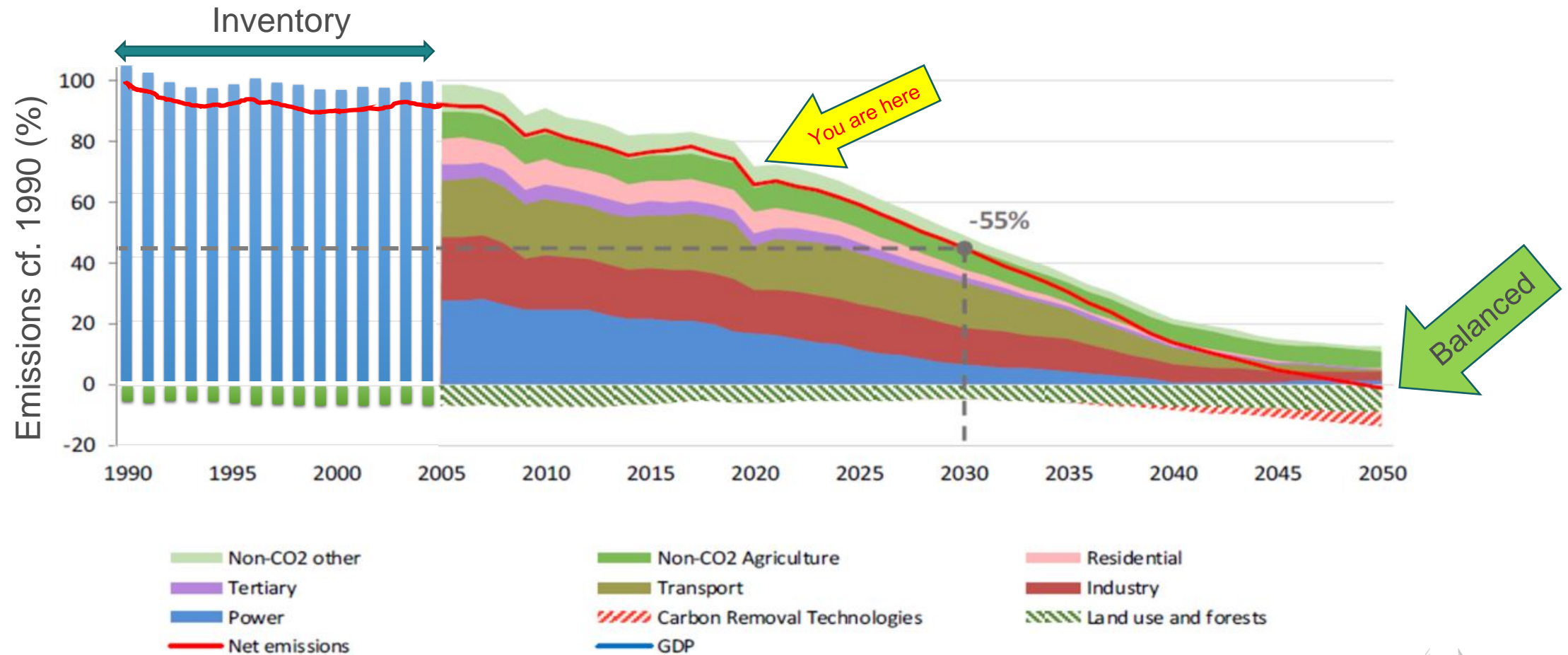
# Carbon farming initiative

DG AGRI

*European Pigmeat Reflection Group*

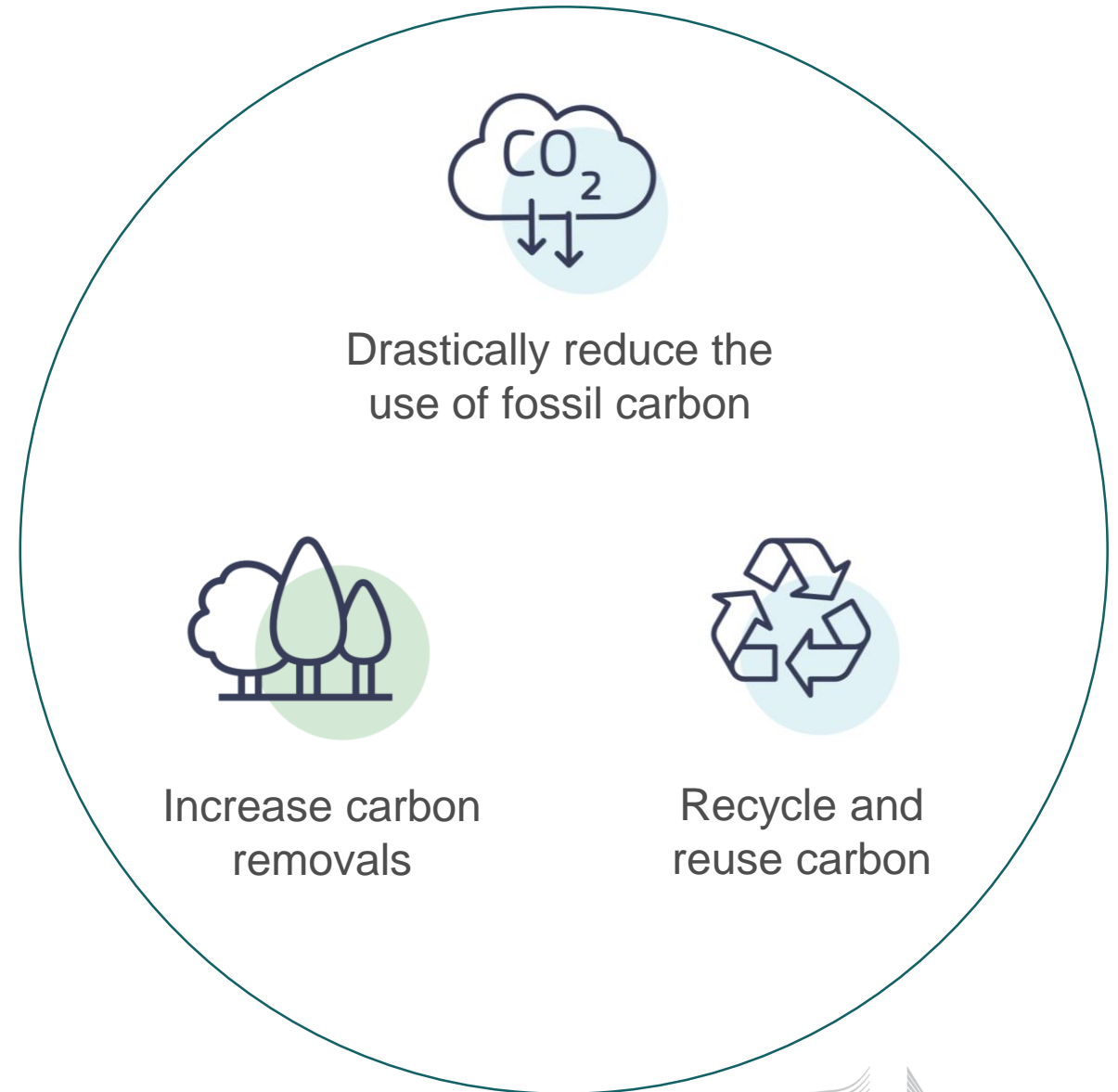
*04/07/2022*

# Pathway to climate neutrality



# Sustainable carbon cycles

To achieve **climate neutrality** at the latest by 2050 and **negative emissions** thereafter, the EU needs to increase carbon removals and establish **sustainable carbon cycles**.



# Carbon farming



A **green business model** rewarding land managers for improved land management practices, resulting in carbon sequestration in ecosystems and reducing the release of carbon to the atmosphere.

## Benefits of carbon farming:



Increased carbon removals



Additional income for land managers



More biodiversity and nature



Increased climate resilience of farm and forest land

# Carbon farming - examples



**Afforestation and reforestation**  
according to ecological principles



Targeted conversion of **cropland to fallow**, or of set-aside areas to **permanent grassland**



Use of **conservation tillage, catch crops, cover crops** and increasing **landscape features**



**Agroforestry**  
and other forms of mixed farming



Restoration, rewetting and conservation of **peatlands and wetlands**



**Blue carbon:** coastal wetlands, regenerative aquaculture, marine permaculture

# Upscaling carbon farming

## Barriers to carbon farming initiatives:

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**Financial burden** (cost of management practices, uncertainty about revenues)

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Uncertainty or lack of public trust in the **reliability** of voluntary carbon markets

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Concerns around **environmental integrity**, **additionality** or **permanence**

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Unavailability, complexity or high costs of **monitoring, reporting and verification systems**

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Insufficiently tailored **training and advisory services**



Technical Guidance Handbook:  
"Setting up and implementing result-based  
carbon farming mechanisms in the EU"  
<https://europa.eu/!VW49yw>

# CAP Plans are built on the objectives

Under the CAP Strategic Plans (2023-2027, Regulation 2021/2115), interventions are programmed by 10 Specific Objectives

## Coming CAP (2023-2027)

- (a) to foster a smart, competitive, resilient and diversified agricultural sector ensuring long-term food security; 6.12.2021 EN Official Journal of the European Union L 435/27
- **(b) to support and strengthen environmental protection, including biodiversity, and climate action and to contribute to achieving the environmental and climate-related objectives of the Union, including its commitments under the Paris Agreement;**
- (c) to strengthen the socio-economic fabric of rural areas.



SO4: to contribute to **climate change** mitigation and adaptation, including by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration, as well as to promote sustainable energy;

- *Minimum 25% of Direct Payments to be dedicated to eco-schemes*
- *Minimum 35% of the EAFRD should be dedicated to environmental and climate objectives*
- *Reinforced links with key pieces of legislation related to climate goals*
- *Impact and Result indicator (e.g. R.14 Share of agricultural area that receives support to reduce emissions or store carbon in soils and biomass )*

*R.17 Afforested land, R.19 Improving and protecting soils. R.34 Preserving landscape features.*

Reg. 2115/2021 – art. 5



# Upscaling carbon farming

## Public funding opportunities :

### Common Agricultural Policy

- Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions obligations (Basic conditionality for Direct Payments):
  - preserving carbon stock (GAEC 1 - Maintenance of permanent grassland)
  - protection of carbon-rich soils (GAEC 2 - Protection of wetland and peatland)
  - maintenance of soil organic matter (GAEC 3 - Ban on burning arable stubble)
  - others
- Support to carbon farming practices through eco-schemes or rural development measures (e.g. Commission [list of potential agricultural practices](#))
  - larger flexibility in designing their support schemes
- EIP-AGRI and new Agricultural Knowledge Information System, supports cooperation and testing of new approaches
- Advisory services, knowledge exchange, training, collective and cooperation approaches and innovation actions,
- Limitations: land eligible to CAP, timeframe, administrative burdens for a robust MRV for carbon credits



# Upscaling carbon farming

## Public funding opportunities:

### LIFE Programme

- Pilot projects (e.g. three new projects on better monitoring tools)

### Cohesion Policy

- Investments into e.g. restoration and conservation of peatland (also Just Transition Fund)
- Cooperation across regions (INTERREG)

### State Aid

- Aid for agri-environmental-climate commitments, investments, advisory services, R&D, cooperation
- Result-based carbon farming schemes, incentive payments for forest ecosystem services

## Next step:

# A regulatory framework for the certification of carbon removals

Set robust criteria to identify high-quality carbon removals

- Quantification (measurement, monitoring and reporting)
- Additionality
- Long-term sequestration
- Environmental integrity
- Transparency

Establish a governance framework for effective and reliable implementation

Rules tailored to carbon farming and industrial carbon removal projects

# Links

- Call for Evidence on Carbon Removal Certification [Certification of carbon removals – EU rules \(europa.eu\)](#) *[closed]*
- Conference on Sustainable Carbon Cycles, 31 January 2022 [Sustainable Carbon Cycles Conference - About \(b2match.io\)](#)
- Our [webpage](#) and our [press release](#) on the Sustainable Carbon Cycles communication
- Our webpage on [Carbon Farming \(europa.eu\)](#)
- Commission list of potential eco-schemes <https://europa.eu/!yb74nC>
- Study on Carbon Farming: <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2834/594818>
- Study on Wood in construction: <https://dx.doi.org/10.2834/421958>
- Legislative proposal on a new Regulation for Land use, forestry, and agriculture [Delivering the European Green Deal | Climate Action \(europa.eu\)](#)
- [Horizon Europe](#)
- Mission "[A Soil Deal for Europe](#)"

# Thank you



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