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BILLION
ADDITIONAL
TREES BY 2030

#3BillionTrees



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Workshop on The implementation of the EU pledge for 3 Billion additional Trees In Spain

Madrid, 23 April 2026, 10:00 - 18.00

DRAFT Concept note & Agenda

The event is organized by the European Commission's Directorate General for Environment (DG ENV) and the Spanish Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITECO), with the support of Milieu Consulting SRL.

Introduction

"The EU's forested area needs to improve, both in quality and quantity, for the EU to reach climate neutrality and a healthy environment". The new EU Forest Strategy for 2030¹ aims to ensure forest restoration and strengthen sustainable forest management for climate adaptation and forest resilience as underpinning the forest-based bioeconomy.

The EU Forest Strategy sets out a **road map for planting 3 billion additional trees by 2030** based on the principle **"the right tree, in the right place for the right purpose"**. Larger and more resilient forest areas, more trees in urban areas, focus on the right species in the right locations, are all crucial elements for the success of European policy on biodiversity and climate. Member States will have to contribute to this objective in their Nature Restoration Plans, pursuant to the new Nature Restoration Regulation.

The Spanish State and the Autonomous Communities have shared competence on forest policy in Spain. The forest regulatory framework in Spain is organised as follows: the National basic forest law, National Strategy and Forest Plan together with National guidelines on sustainable forest management (SFM) set the basis for the Regional forest laws (implementing national laws to reflect specific challenges and needs at regional level), Regional forest plans (with specific objectives and targets based on regional challenges and needs), Forest Resource Management Plan (PORF) at regional, district or county level.

The [Spanish Forest Strategy – vision 2050](#) and the [Spanish Forest Plan 2022-2032](#) refer to the EU Biodiversity Strategy and its commitment to plant at least 3 billion additional trees by 2030, with full respect for ecological principles. The Strategic Plan for Natural Heritage and Biodiversity to

¹ COM (2021) 572.



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2030 sets the goal to create 200,000 hectares of new forests by 2030, which will involve the planting of at least 120 million trees. Furthermore, Spain sets the register of carbon footprints, offsetting and carbon dioxide absorption projects through the [Royal Decree 163/2014](#) and updated in 2025, with the [Royal Decree 214/2025](#), which expands and reinforces the already existing measures. This voluntary registry records the efforts of Spanish private companies, public administrations, and other organizations to calculate, reduce, and offset greenhouse gas emissions from their activities including a portfolio of tree planting and forest projects aiming to offset their footprint. Within this framework regional actions are undertaken, integrating the regional sections of the registry. For instance, the Bosque Metropolitano of Madrid and the Galician Strategy on afforestation, reforestation and restoration are examples of City Halls and Autonomous Communities developing interesting initiatives.

The EU 3BT Pledge is not only about a numerical target but also about fostering a culture of environmental stewardship and collective action to safeguard our planet for future generations. It underscores the relevance of integrating nature-based solutions into broader climate change strategies to address the interconnected challenges of ecosystems degradation, biodiversity loss, and climate change.

The workshop will offer a platform for presenting and discussing the implementation of the Pledge and the national or regional activities. Discussion will focus on improving forest resilience with multi-species planting strategies to integrate wildfire risk considerations in tree planting activities, the need for diverse and climate adaptative species and financial resources including public and private partnerships to scale up efforts. Particular attention will be paid to structural constraints that may limit the effective implementation of tree planting initiatives in Spain. These include land availability and ownership fragmentation, competing land uses (notably with agriculture), and the need to ensure long-term maintenance of planted areas. Addressing these aspects is essential to avoid short-term approaches and to ensure that tree planting contributes effectively to ecosystem restoration, resilience and the provision of ecosystem services over time.

National and local authorities, landowners, forest- and agricultural associations, NGOs, businesses, and local communities play a vital role in contributing to the EU pledge and will be invited to take part in the discussions.

The European Commission (Directorate General for Environment) oversees the implementation of the 3 Billion Trees Pledge, providing voluntary guidelines on relevant issues such as afforestation, reforestation and tree planting, closer to nature forest management and potential funding opportunities. With the support of the European Environmental Agency (EEA), the Commission manages the EU 3 Billion Trees Pledge Registry, the reporting and tracking progress.



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Other EU Member States, such as Ireland are contributing to the EU counter under the EU 3 Billion Trees and have developed interesting measures to support the increase of forest cover which may inspire Spanish ongoing and future efforts. Milieu Consulting SRL supports the European Commission in implementing the 3 Billion Trees pledge.

Objectives of the workshop

- Support the increase of forest cover in Spain and consolidate new forest stands, obtained both through natural regeneration and through planting.
- Raise awareness about EU and Spanish tree planting initiatives, the challenges faced and how to overcome them, and the importance of the EU tree counter. Analyse key structural barriers to scaling up tree planting efforts in Spain, including land availability, ownership structure, governance and coordination challenges, and identify mechanisms to ensure long-term management and maintenance of planted areas.
- Introduce the EU 3 Billion Trees Pledge, its requirements and the current implementation in the EU, and its contribution to the article 13 goal of the Nature Restoration Regulation.
- Presentation and further exchange on good practices in various Spanish regions and Member States, including on options for pursuing multiple objectives and synergies between them in afforestation activities and planning.
- Discuss reverse biodiversity loss, combatting climate change and creating resilient ecosystems against natural disturbances (such as wildfires).
- Boost economic and public health benefits: Tree planting efforts are expected to create jobs and improve public health through better air quality, soil protection and green spaces.

Target audience

State, regional and local authorities, forest owners and managers, nurseries, tree planting organizations, NGOs, wood-based and non-wood forest products industries, forestry service companies, forestry research and innovation centres, forestry universities and training centres.

More information

For further details visit: [The #3BillionTrees Pledge - European Commission](#).

For information on the support activities by Milieu to the EU Commission and summaries of other event, visit [Milieu Support project to the 3 Billion Trees Pledge - Milieu Law & Policy Consulting](#).



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Agenda

Moderator: Marta Ballesteros, Senior Manager & Lawyer, Milieu Consulting

9:30 – 10:00	<i>Arrival, registration and coffee</i>
10:00 – 10:15	<i>Welcome remarks by the organisers.</i> Mrs María Jesús Rodríguez de Sancho, MITECO, DG Biodiversity, Forest and Desertification, and Mr Nikolaos Isaris, Deputy-Director of the European Commission Representation in Spain
10:15 – 11:45	<i>The 3 Billion Trees Initiative, the registration process and enabling factors</i> - <i>The EU Pledge for 3 billion additional trees</i> (Elena Lobo, Directorate General for Environment, European Commission) - <i>The EU platform and counter for registering planted trees</i> (Nicolas Robert, European Environment Agency) - <i>The Irish afforestation plan and experience</i> (Rob Mooney, Principal Officer of the Forestry Division, Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine) - <i>The Spanish Forest Strategy and the National Restoration Plan</i> (Guillermo Fernandez Centeno, Javier Inogés, MITECO -DGGBD) Q&A
11:45 – 12:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
12:15 – 13:30	<i>Increasing the forest cover in Spain</i> - <i>Genetic diversity and forest reproductive material - from seed source selection to planting</i> (José María Climent, INIA-ICIFOR) - <i>Register of CO₂ absorption projects of MITECO and the Autonomous Communities</i> (MITECO - OECC) – (Adrián Gómez Serrano, Deputy Directorate-General for Climate Change Mitigation, Spanish Office for Climate Change, MITECO) - <i>Bosque Metropolitano of Madrid</i> (Raquel Bravo, Municipality of Madrid) Q&A
13:30 – 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>



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14:30 – 16:00

Increasing the forest cover in Spain

- *Aragón Reforestation Plan 2024-2027* (Ignacio Pérez-Soba, Director of the Provincial Office of Zaragoza, Department of Environment and Tourism, Government of Aragon)
- *Canary Islands - Reforestation of cloud forest species.* (Juan Agullo Pérez, Head of the Technical Service for Forest Planning and Projects - Department of the Environment, Sustainability, Safety, and Emergencies - Tenerife Island Council)
- *Galician Forest Strategy on afforestation, reforestation and restoration* (Alicia Béliz. Head of service for forestry promotion -Directorate-General for Forest Planning and Management – Government of Galicia)
- *Castile and Leon's Afforestation, Reforestation, and Restoration* (Javier Ezquerro – Directorate-General for natural heritage and forestry policy, Government of Castile and Leon)

Q&A

16:00 –17:30

Challenges for tree planting in Spain: Land availability, governance and long-term management

- *Benefits and barriers for Implementing the 3-Billion-Tree Initiative in Spain.* (Juan Oliet, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM) y Sociedad de Ciencias Forestales, SECF)
- *Sylvestris* (Enrique Enciso, Forest engineer and founder)
- *Juntos por los Bosques* (Patricia Gomez, Director of the Spanish Confederation of Foresters)
- *LandLife* (Joana Fernández, Partnerships Manager)

Wildfire risk and tree planting

- *Presentation of the policy context on wildfire risk and tree planting* (Adrian Tištan, Gonzalo Gonzalez Jurado, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission)
- *Natural Regeneration following wildfires in the Region of Murcia* (Ignacio Rojo Núñez - Head of Service, Directorate General of Natural Heritage and Climate Action - Region of Murcia)

Q&A

17:30

Conclusions

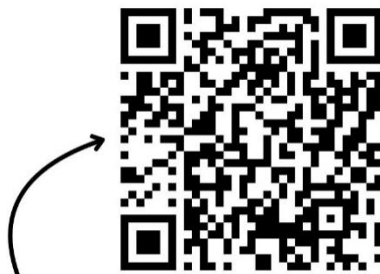


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