



Policy update on Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming Regulation (CRCF)

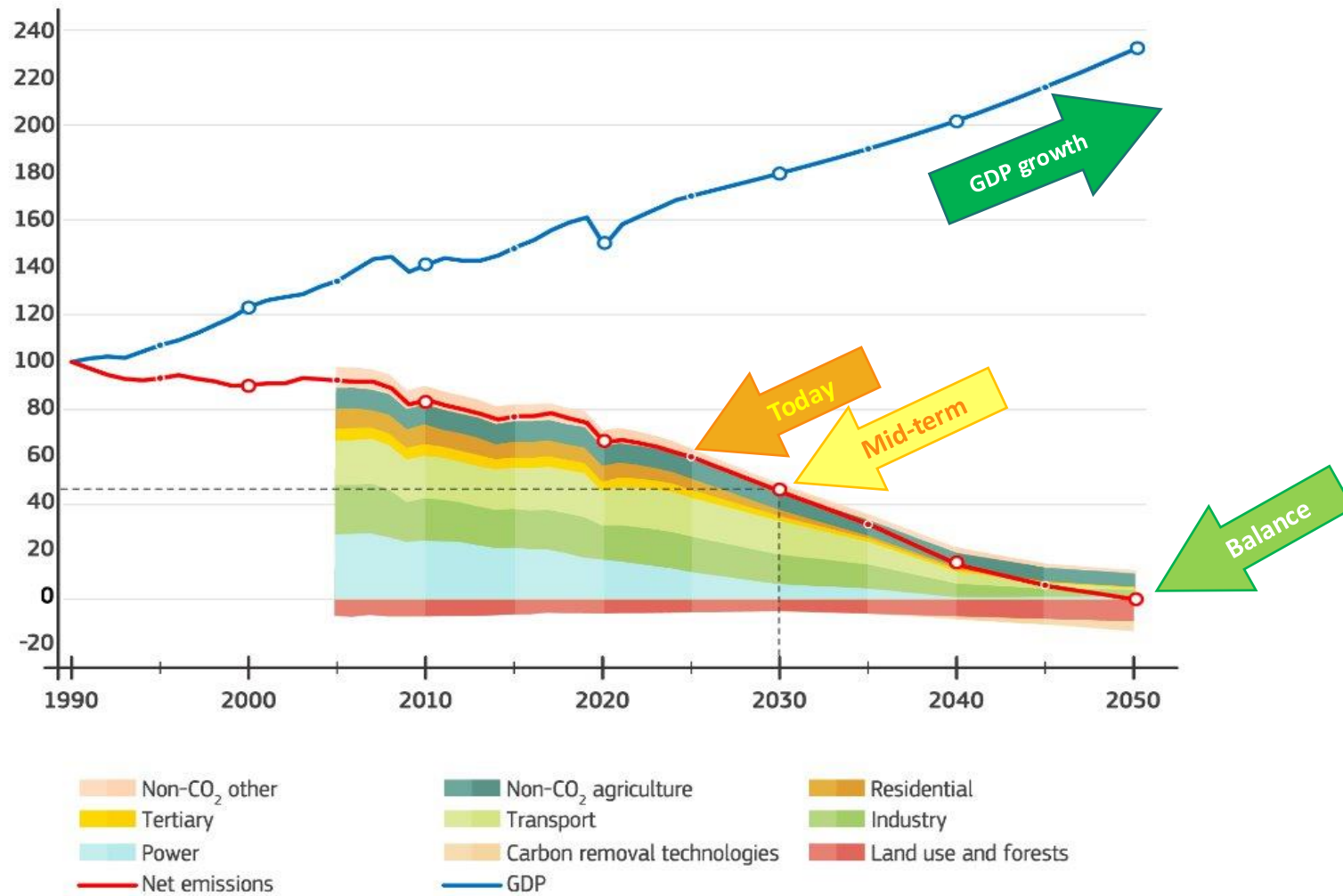
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European Commission

Land economy and carbon removals, DG CLIMA

ESA/EEA 9 October 2025

The EU is progressing on a pathway to climate neutrality and growth



The EU Carbon Removal and Carbon Farming Regulation

The EU Carbon Removal and Carbon Farming (CRCF) Regulation



Official Journal
of the European Union

EN
L series

2024/3012

6.12.2024

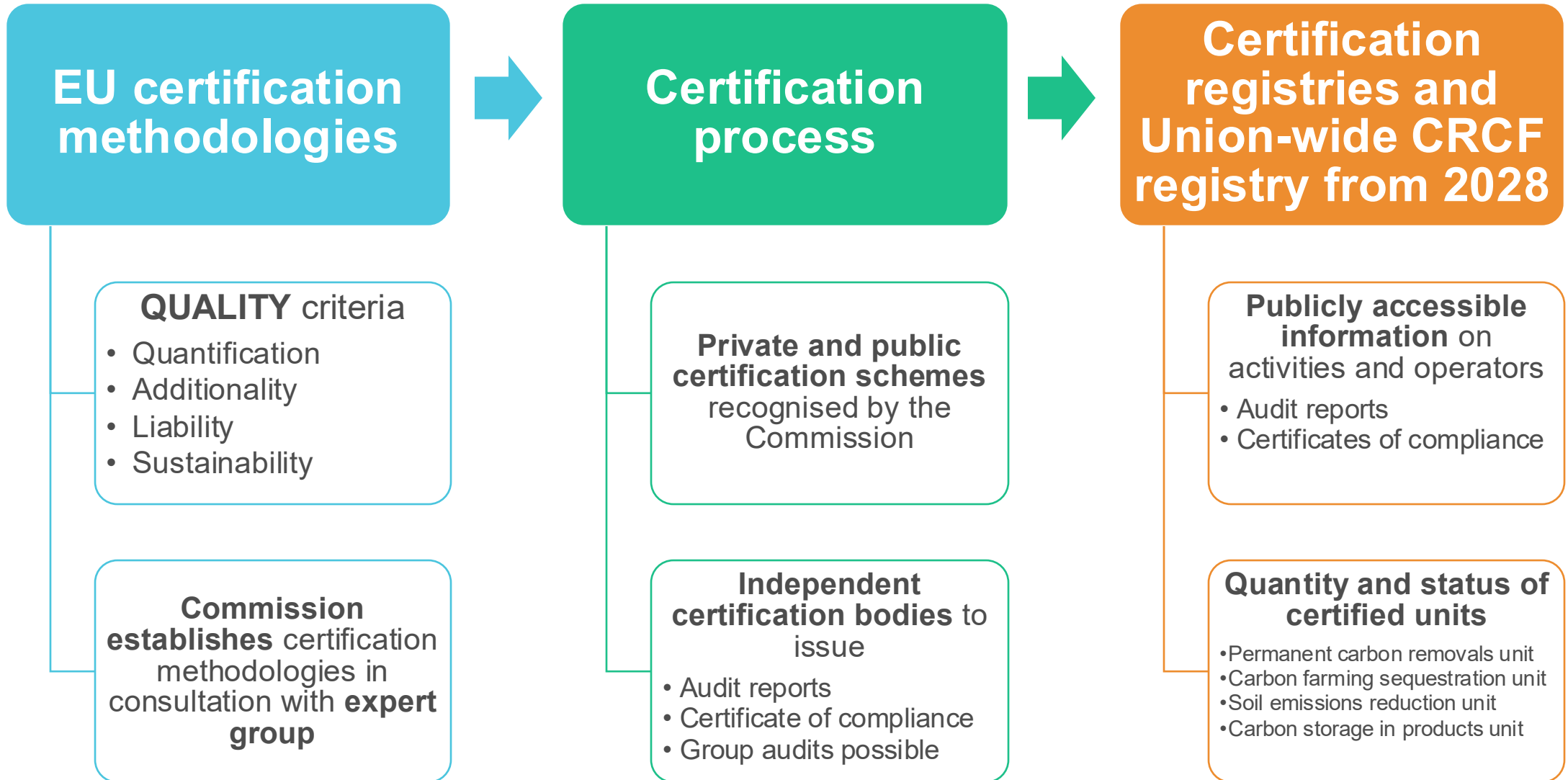
REGULATION (EU) 2024/3012 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of 27 November 2024

establishing a Union certification framework for permanent carbon removals, carbon farming and carbon storage in products

- Proposal by Commission in November 2022
- Publication in Official Journal in December 2024

The three pillars of the CRCF framework



CRCF 1 / Certification methodologies

Certification methodologies

Carbon Farming

Planting Trees

Soil management and agroforestry

Rewetting of peatlands

Carbon storage in buildings

Long lasting use of biomaterials

Permanent removals

Biogenic emissions with Carbon Capture and Storage (BioCCS)

Direct Air Capture and Storage (DACCS)

Biochar

Developed together with an expert group

First set of **Carbon Farming** methodologies expected to be adopted in **2026**

Work started on methodologies for

- Sustainable forest management
- Livestock emission reductions
- Enhanced rock weathering
- Carbonation / mineralisation

Scope of quantification

Temporary net carbon removal benefit =

$$(CR_{\text{baseline}} - CR_{\text{activity}} - GHG_{\text{associated}}) \times (1 - UNC)$$



Carbon farming
sequestration unit

Net soil emission reduction benefit =

$$(LSE_{\text{baseline}} - LSE_{\text{activity}} + ASE_{\text{baseline}} - ASE_{\text{activity}} - GHG_{\text{associated}}) \times (1 - UNC)$$



Soil emission
reduction unit

CR = Carbon Removals	Soil organic carbon and woody biomass	Permanent grassland, reduced / no tillage, cover crops, crop residue management, organic amendments; Agroforestry, woody crops, landscape features; Planting of trees (afforestation / reforestation)
LSE = LULUCF Soil Emissions	Soil organic carbon	Peatland rewetting and restoration, hydrological improvement; Permanent grassland, reduced / no tillage, cover crops, crop residue management, organic amendments
ASE = Agricultural Soil Emissions	direct and indirect soil N ₂ O emissions	Leguminous crops, fertiliser reduction
GHG_{associated}	all increases in GHG associated to the activity	Increase in fertiliser use, liming and urea, transport, fossil fuel use, energy use, production of inputs

Baseline

Temporary net carbon removal benefit =

$$(CR_{\text{baseline}} - CR_{\text{activity}} - GHG_{\text{associated}}) \times (1 - UNC)$$

Net soil emission reduction benefit =

$$(LSE_{\text{baseline}} - LSE_{\text{activity}} + ASE_{\text{baseline}} - ASE_{\text{activity}} - GHG_{\text{associated}}) \times (1 - UNC)$$

Soil organic carbon in agriculture & Direct and indirect soil N ₂ O emissions	Continuation of the management practices that occurred during a reference period (at least 3 years before the start of the activity period)
Peatland rewetting	Counterfactual of emissions without rewetting
Woody biomass	Zero (all removals in new trees)

Additionality – general rules

Regulatory test

Activity needs to go beyond legal requirements on the operator

Additional even if legal requirements are introduced during the activity period

Financial viability

Incentive effect > did the operator change his behaviour because of the certification?

Proportionality > need for certification finance for the activity to take place?

Additionality – Simplification for operators

If activity started in recent years:

Incentive effect ok



If activity started in the past and was certified by a recognised scheme:

Incentive effect ok

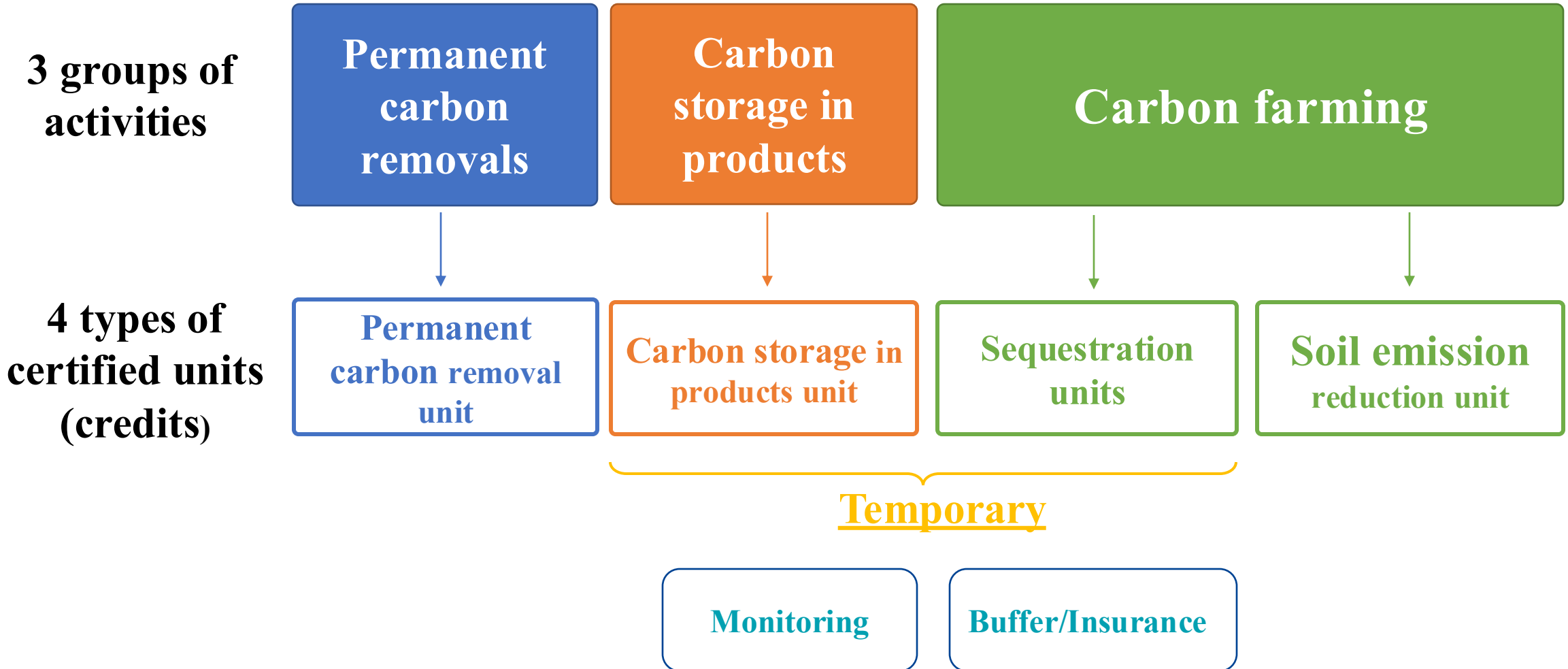


Carbon farming application is currently limited:

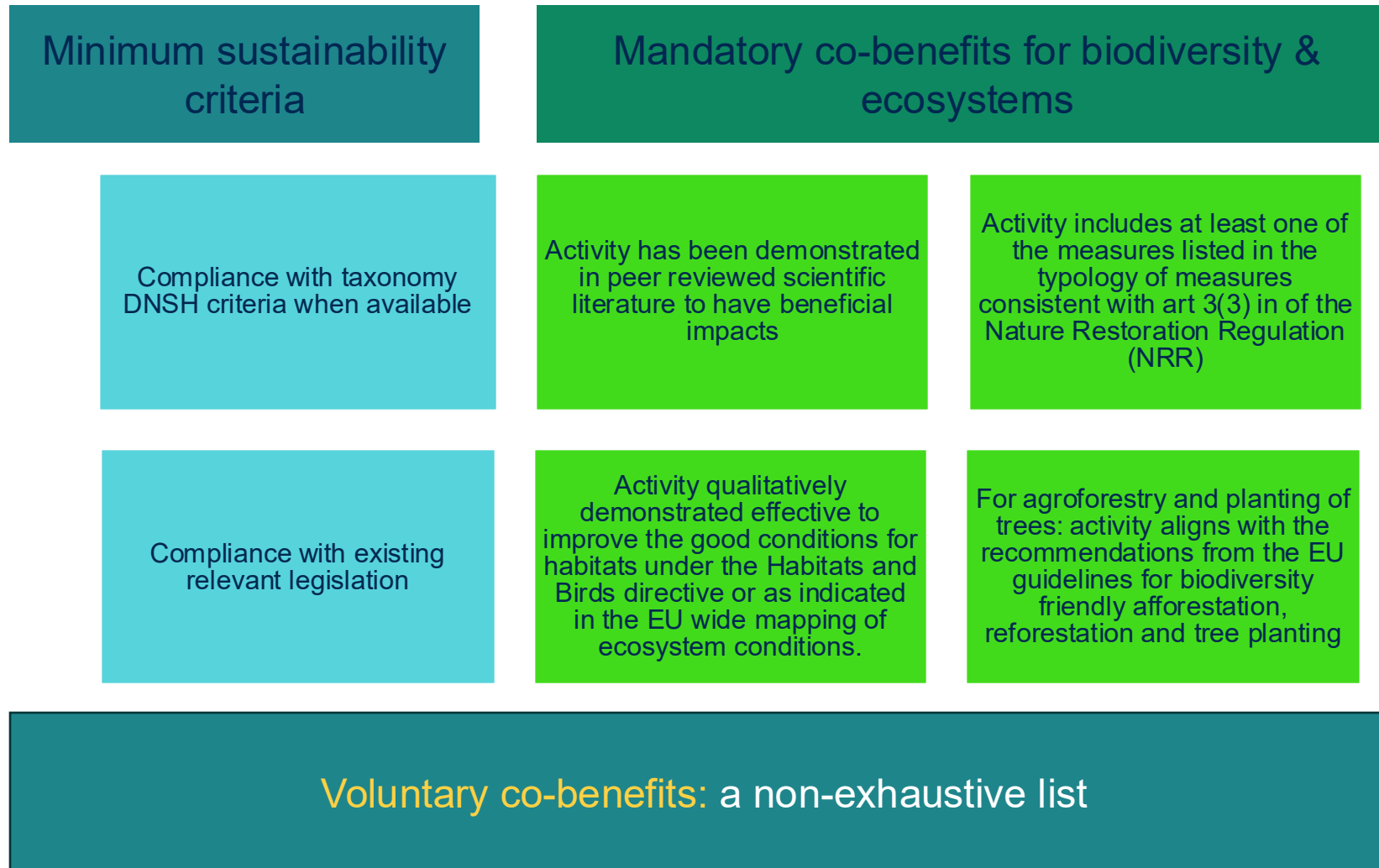
Common practice analysis ok



Storage of carbon: permanent vs temporary

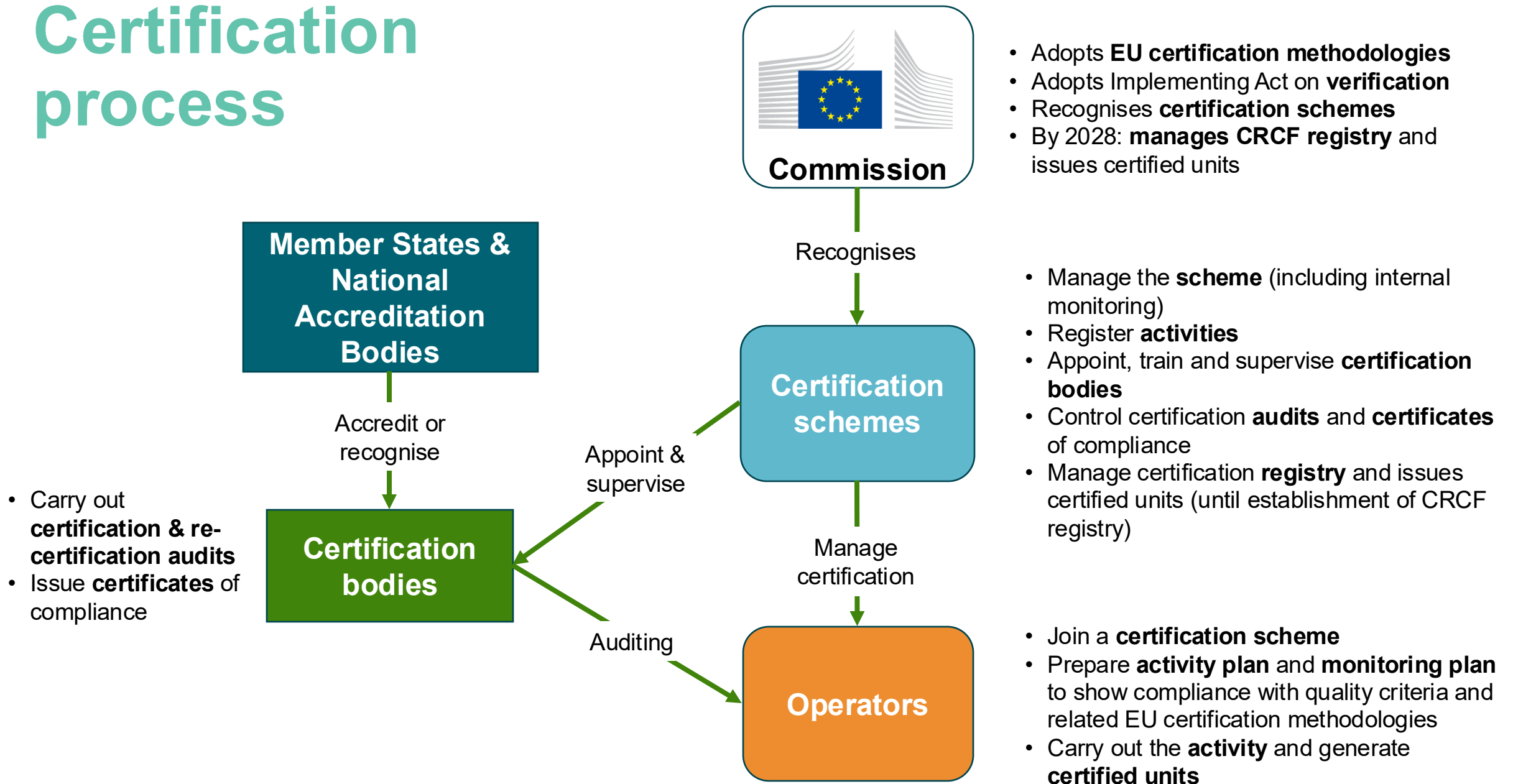


Sustainability – minimum criteria & mandatory and voluntary co-benefits



CRCF 2 / Certification process

Certification process



Implementing Act on certification rules

Certification schemes

- **Governance** structure of certification scheme
- **Internal monitoring**, complaints procedure and documentation management
- **Non-conformities** of operators
- **Remediation** measures and **sanctions**
- **Change** of certification scheme by operators
- **Publication of information** by certification schemes
- Certification **registries**
- **EC recognition** of certification schemes

Certification bodies

- **Appointment** of certification bodies
- **Training** of certification bodies
- **Supervision** by the Member States and COM

Auditing

- **Audit process** and levels of assurance
- **Auditing of calculations** on carbon removals and soil emissions
- **Group auditing** for carbon farming
- **Appointment** of certification bodies
- Annexes: **templates** for activity plan and monitoring plan, audit report, scheme's website and annual report

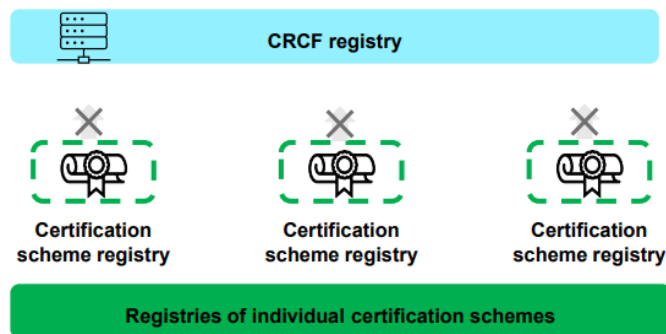
CRCF 3 / Certification registries

Options for an EU-wide CRCF registry

See: [Final report on Scoping of the CRCF registry and minimum requirements for certification scheme registries](#); [Webinar recording with presentation of study results 13-02-2025](#)

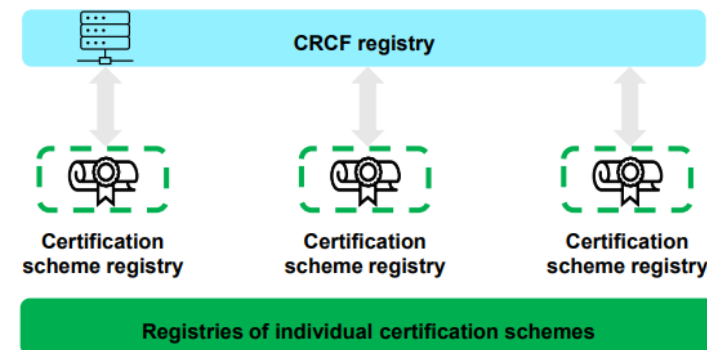
Full functionality

- All operations are performed within the CRCF registry.
- No link required with certification scheme registries



Central repository

- All operations are performed in individual certification scheme registries. Issuance performed by CRCF registry
- Certification scheme registries share data with CRCF registry

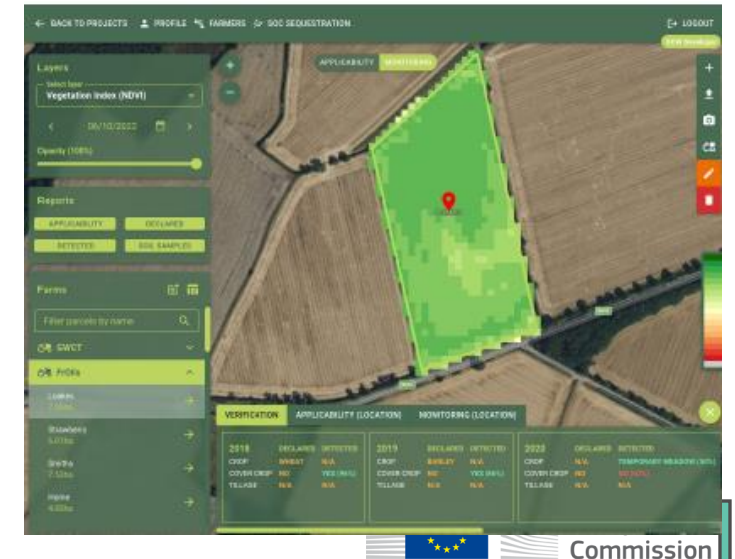
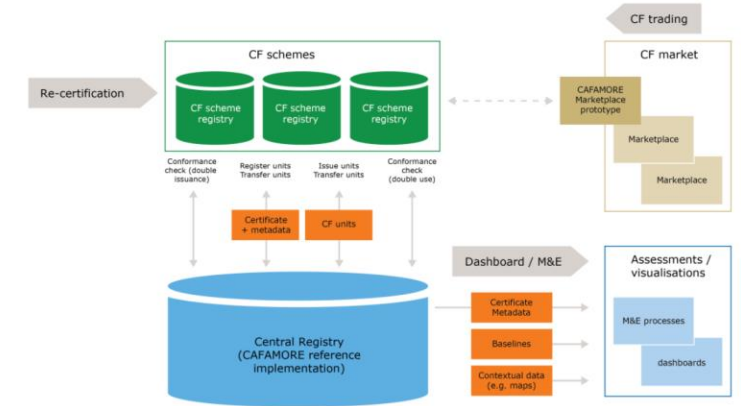


Recommendation: developing the CRCF registry as a central repository with a focus on the back-end

Spatially explicit registry for carbon farming

Two new projects financed under the Mission for Healthy Soils (Horizon Europe programme):

- **CAFAMORE** aims to develop an EU-wide parcel-level monitoring approach for carbon farming to harmonise and automate data collection, quantification, and baselining. The project will deliver a spatially explicit registry, support robust certification schemes, and build a transparent carbon farming marketplace.
- The **Intergenerational Open Geospatial Carbon Registry (OGCR)** aims to create:
 - 1) updateable baseline geospatial layers for soil, biomass and peat for pan-EU,
 - 2) a hybrid modelling framework to explore management changes in CAP and CRCF initiatives, and
 - 3) a globally applicable open geospatial carbon registry, servicing pan-EU.



CRCF 4 / Timeline and next steps

Timeline

2024

- Entry into force of CRCF [Regulation - EU - 2024/3012 - EN - EUR-Lex](#)

2025

- Proposal of first certification methodologies
- Adoption of **rules for certification** schemes, registries, and verification by independent third parties

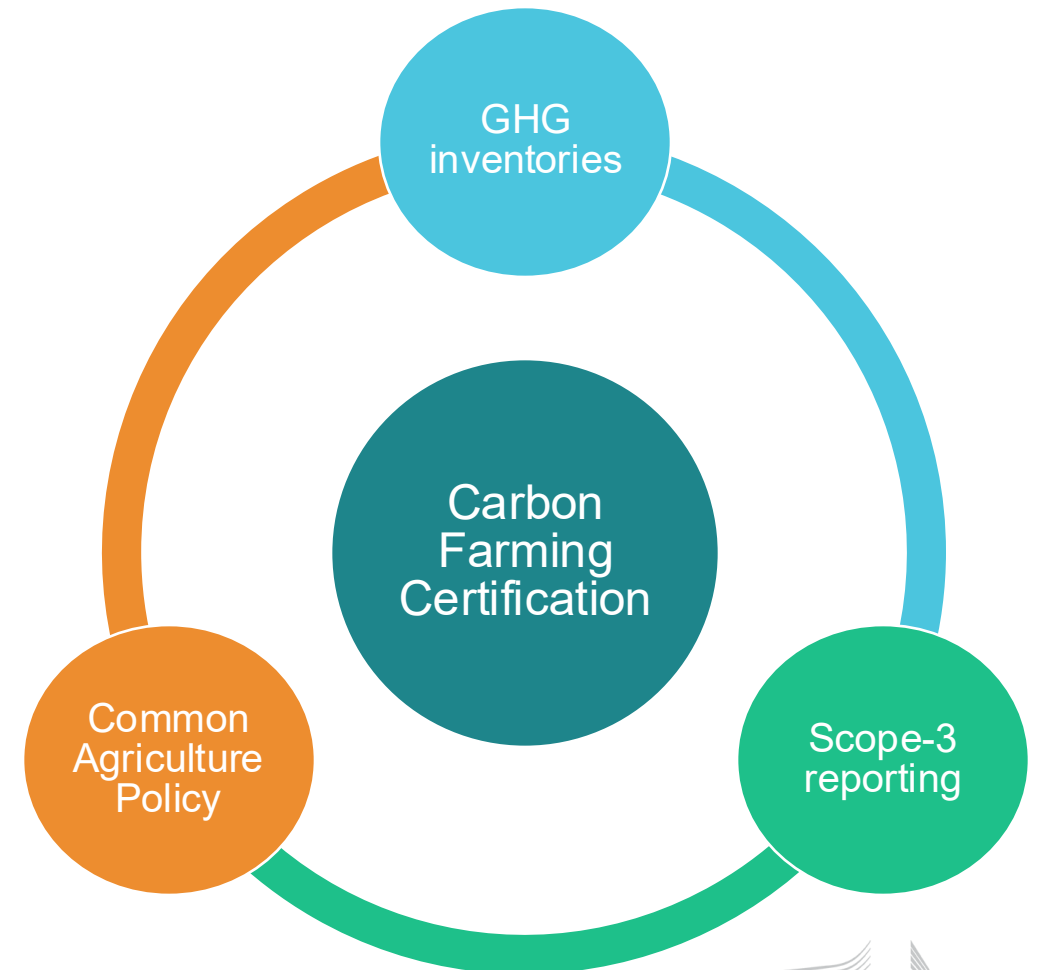
2026

- Adoption of the **first set of carbon farming certification methodologies**
- Recognition of **certification schemes** and (possibly) **first issuance of certified units**
- **Work on the next certification methodologies**, including Sustainable Forest Management and Carbon Storage in Buildings, Livestock
- **CRCF review** (possible inclusion of livestock emission reductions)

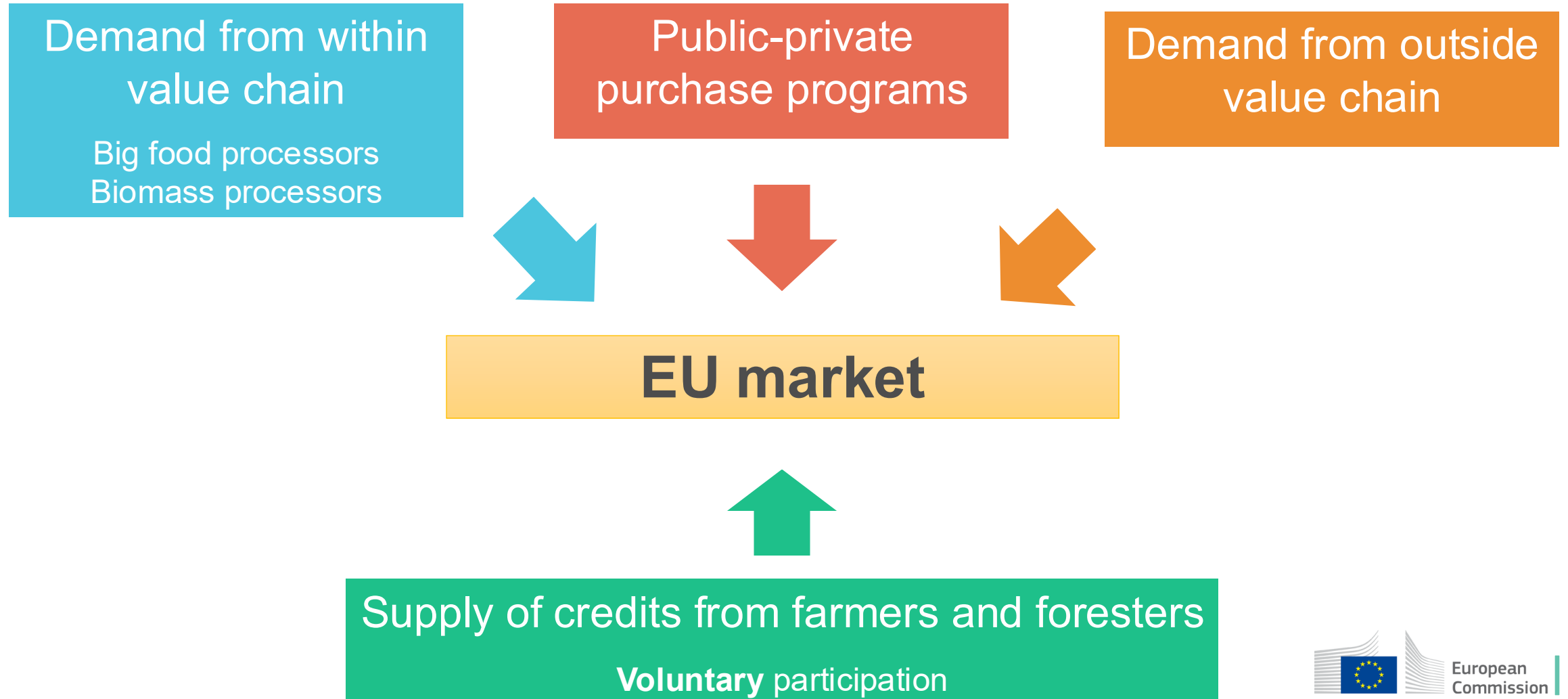
2028

- **Start of EU registry**

CRCF as part of a single MRV system



EU market for carbon farming credits



More information



[DG CLIMA website on Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming](#)



CRCF Regulation: [pdf](#)



Frequently Asked Questions on CRCF: [a8abe1c4-a3c6-4c94-be0e-4b76f7fd0308_en \(europa.eu\)](#)



Expert Group on Carbon Removals: [Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming - European Commission](#)



[EU carbon removals newsletter](#)



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