



# Update on EU Regulation and Eurostat's work on ecosystem accounting

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# Context (1/2)

- 6 SEEA accounts are mandatory in the European Union
- An EU Regulation requires EU member states to produce and transmit data to Eurostat

1. Air emissions accounts
2. Environmental taxes by economic activity
3. Economy-wide material flow accounts
4. Environmental protection expenditure accounts
5. Environmental goods and services sector
6. Physical energy flow accounts

In Regulation in 2011

Added to Regulation in 2014

# Context (2/2)

- Regulation (EU) No 691/2011 has a modular structure:
  - Each environmental account in one annex
  - Article 10 lists candidates for future modules
  - Article 4 mentions pilot studies for future modules
- Eurostat proposes a legal amendment to add 3 new modules
  - Plus some other small technical updates

# 3 new environmental accounts modules

7. Forest accounts
8. Environmental subsidies and similar transfers ('green subsidies')
9. Ecosystem accounts

# Ecosystem accounts: Eurostat's proposal (1/2)

- Ecosystem extent accounts

Category	Ecosystem type
1	Settlements and other artificial areas
2	Cropland
3	Grassland (pastures, semi-natural and natural grassland)
4	Forest and woodland
5	Heathland and shrub
6	Sparsely vegetated ecosystems
7	Inland wetlands
8	Rivers and canals
9	Lakes and reservoirs
10	Marine inlets and transitional waters
11	Coastal beaches, dunes and wetlands
12	Marine ecosystems (coastal waters, shelf and open ocean)

Reporting every 3 years, to be reported after 24 months of the reference year

# Ecosystem accounts: Eurostat's proposal (2/2)

- Ecosystem condition accounts. Few indicators for:
  - Settlements and other artificial areas; cropland; grassland; forests and woodland; coastal beaches, dunes and wetlands.

## Reporting every 3 years

- Ecosystem services (in physical units)
  - Provisioning: crop provision, pollination, wood provision
  - Regulating and maintenance: air filtration, global climate regulation, local climate regulation
  - Cultural services: nature-based tourism-related services

## Reporting every year

- Ecosystem services (in monetary units)
  - Not yet. Can be activated in a few years, after a feasibility study. For same ecosystem services as in physical terms, or a sub-set.

# Legal process ahead

- Adoption of the proposal by the European Commission (of which Eurostat is a service)
- Legal procedure between the European Parliament and the Council
  - They are the equivalent of the 'House of representatives' and 'Senate' in the EU
- Adoption of the Regulation by European Parliament and Council
- First mandatory data transmission expected around 2026
- In the meantime, Eurostat developing handbooks, compilation tools, offering grants, preparatory voluntary data collections, etc.

# Thank you

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