

## II

(Non-legislative acts)

## REGULATIONS

## COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2021/268

of 28 October 2020

amending Annex IV to Regulation (EU) 2018/841 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the forest reference levels to be applied by the Member States for the period 2021-2025

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2018/841 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on the inclusion of greenhouse gas emissions and removals from land use, land use change and forestry in the 2030 climate and energy framework, and amending Regulation (EU) No 525/2013 and Decision No 529/2013/EU <sup>(1)</sup>, and in particular Article 8(8) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Member States submitted national forestry accounting plans, including proposed forest reference levels for the period from 2021 to 2025, to the Commission.
- (2) In accordance with Article 8(6) of Regulation (EU) 2018/841, the Commission undertook a technical assessment of the national forestry accounting plans submitted by the Member States with a view to assessing the extent to which the proposed forest reference levels were determined in accordance with the principles and requirements set out in paragraphs 4 and 5 of Article 8 and in Article 5(1) of that Regulation.
- (3) As required by Article 8(6) of Regulation (EU) 2018/841 and in line with the commitment undertaken during the negotiations of that Regulation, as laid down in the Statement on the involvement of experts addressed to the European Parliament, the Commission established on 30 October 2018 a Commission expert group <sup>(2)</sup> ('the expert group') tasked with assisting the Commission in carrying out the technical assessment. The expert group included, among others, experts appointed by the Member States and individuals appointed in their personal capacity, acting independently and in the public interest, representatives of the research and non-governmental organisations, and stakeholders.
- (4) Based on the views of the expert group and the technical assessment, the Commission issued technical recommendations to the Member States, with a view to facilitating the technical revision of the proposed forest reference levels. The Commission published the technical recommendations on 18 June 2019 <sup>(3)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 156, 19.6.2018, p. 1.

<sup>(2)</sup> Commission expert group on Land use, land use change and Forestry (LULUCF) (E03638).

<sup>(3)</sup> Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2019) 213 final of 18 June 2019 on the Assessment of the National Forestry Accounting plans.

- (5) As required by Article 8(7) of Regulation (EU) 2018/841, based on the technical assessment and the technical recommendations, the Member States revised their national forestry accounting plans, and, in some cases, proposed forest reference levels, and communicated the information to the Commission. The Commission published the proposed and, where applicable, revised forest reference levels on 25 February 2020.
- (6) The expert group agreed that the forest reference levels that the Commission proposes to include in Annex IV to Regulation (EU) 2018/841, were determined in accordance with the principles and requirements set out in paragraphs 4 and 5 of Article 8 and in Article 5(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/841.
- (7) The Commission should therefore lay down the forest reference levels to be applied by the Member States for the period from 2021 to 2025.
- (8) This Regulation is in line with the opinion of the Commission expert group on Land use, land use change and forestry,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1*

Annex IV to Regulation (EU) 2018/841 is amended as set out in the Annex to this Regulation.

*Article 2*

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 28 October 2020.

*For the Commission*  
*The President*  
Ursula VON DER LEYEN

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## ANNEX

In Annex IV to Regulation (EU) 2018/841, the following Section C is added:

**‘C. The forest reference levels to be applied by the Member States for the period from 2021 to 2025**

Member State	The forest reference level for the period from 2021 to 2025 in tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent per year
Belgium	– 1 369 009
Bulgaria	– 5 105 986
Czech Republic	– 6 137 189
Denmark	+ 354 000
Germany	– 34 366 906
Estonia	– 1 750 000
Ireland	+ 112 670
Greece	– 2 337 640
Spain	– 32 833 000
France	– 55 399 290
Croatia	– 4 368 000
Italy	– 19 656 100
Cyprus	– 155 779
Latvia	– 1 709 000
Lithuania	– 5 164 640
Luxembourg	– 426 000
Hungary	– 48 000
Malta	– 38
Netherlands	– 1 531 397
Austria	– 4 533 000
Poland	– 28 400 000
Portugal	– 11 165 000
Romania	– 24 068 200
Slovenia	– 3 270 200
Slovakia	– 4 827 630
Finland	– 29 386 695
Sweden	– 38 721 000
United Kingdom	– 20 701 550'