EU GREEN WEEK

Bio Monitor 4CAP

The 26th edition of **EU Green Week, "Investing in a Nature Positive Economy"**, Organised by DG Environment, took place in Brussels this June. Two days of discussions on **how environmental ambition can meet economic reality.**

The event delivered a strong message: **nature** is no longer just an environmental issue; it **is the foundation of Europe's economic resilience, competitiveness, and food security.**

INVESTING IN NATURE IS AN ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

The event challenged the common belief that nature conservation has a negative economic impact on agriculture.

The European Environment Agency's recent assessment shows that strengthening ecological functions (e.g. soil cover, rotations and landscape features) can support economic resilience either by reducing reliance on inputs and field operations or - where benefits are primarily public - through compensation or co-investment that makes adoption viable for farmers.

The assessment also shows that the economic benefits associated with climate resilience vary by region and agricultural context, requiring different strategies and priorities.

"Climate-Resilient Agriculture is an economic stabilisation strategy, not just an environmental one." *(Building climate-resilient agriculture in Europe: an economic perspective, EEA 2026)*

This EEA assessment is a first step, but it has been specified that it must now move from case studies to large-scale data, which will demonstrate that these transitions can be economically viable.

REDUCING TRANSITION RISKS FOR FARMERS

Many speakers recognised that the transition towards regenerative agriculture remains economically risky for farmers. Climate uncertainty, changing farming practices and upfront investment costs often discourage adoption. Consequently, the debate focused less on eliminating risks than on better managing them through advisory services, long-term business partnerships, knowledge exchange, insurance systems and evidence-based decision support. Farmers repeatedly emphasised that trust, technical support and peer-to-peer learning are essential to facilitate change.

PUBLIC & PRIVATE FUNDING

Another clear conclusion was that public funding alone will never be sufficient to finance the scale of transformation required. Achieving a nature-positive economy will require stronger mobilisation of private capital alongside CAP payments and public investments. Agri-food companies, financial institutions and insurers increasingly recognise that their own economic performance depends on resilient agricultural systems and therefore have a direct interest in supporting nature-friendly practices. Successful examples presented during the Green Week illustrated how long-term contracts, technical assistance and public-private partnerships can create the conditions for large-scale adoption.

NATURE CREDITS

Nature Credits were discussed as a potential mechanism for directing private investment toward biodiversity restoration and ecosystem management. Many experts emphasized that the European Commission must establish rules and a common framework for such a mechanism to function effectively and for the EU to become a global leader in this area. It was also emphasized that Nature Credits must not be a replica of carbon credits; they are not a commodity. Biodiversity is highly localized (unlike carbon). Nature Credits must be local instruments, financed at the global level.