

EU Governance for CO₂ Removals in EU law: What could a removal target look like?

Nils Meyer-Ohlendorf

- 29 September 2020,

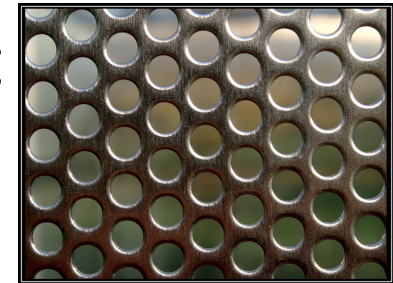
What we have (almost)

- Combined target for climate neutrality by 2050
 - Legally binding – if EU Climate Law is adopted
 - Collective target for EU – if adopted as COM proposed
- Combined target 55 % by 2030 including reductions and removals – if adopted as COM proposed
- No-debit target LULUCF



What we don't have

- No separate EU removal target
 - No clarity / quantification of climate neutrality
 - 2050 climate neutrality through 100 % reductions and no CDRs *or* 80 %, and 20 %?
- Only collective EU target, no MS targets?
- No sufficient LULUCF target
- No legally binding nature restoration target

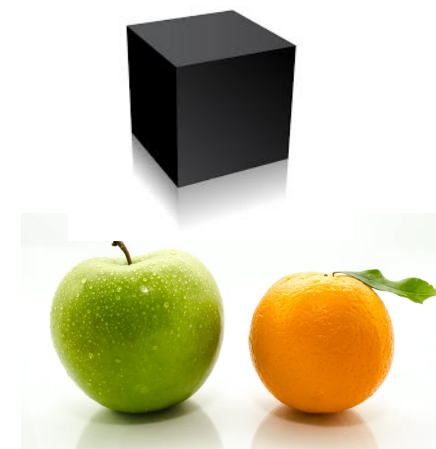


Why is this a problem ~

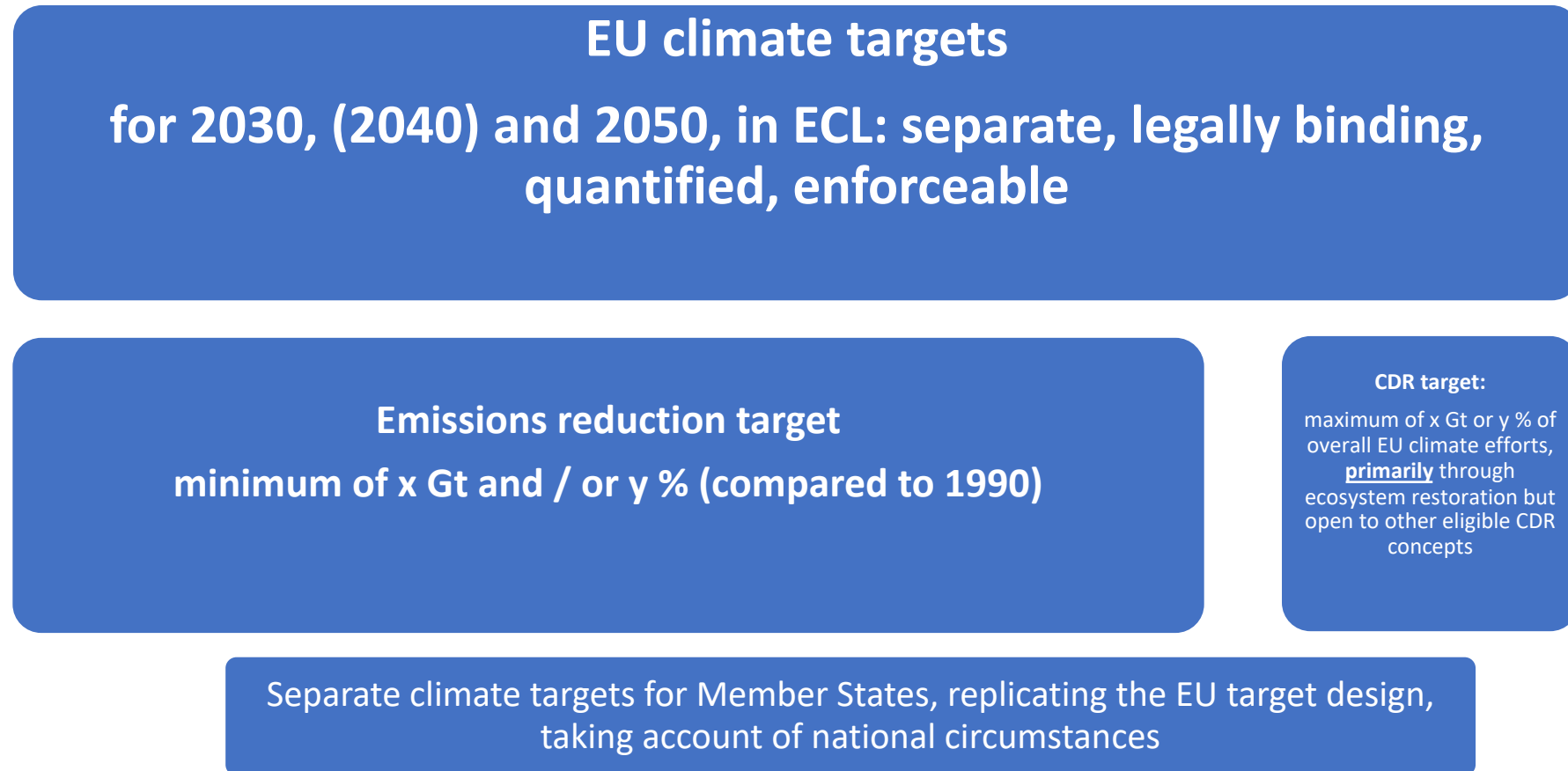


Why is this a problem?

- Combined targets obscure that
 - Removals and reductions are **fundamentally different**:
 - No full substitution: $1 \text{ CDR} \neq 1 \text{ AEA or } 1 \text{ EUA}$
 - No better sink than oil, gas, and coal in the ground
 - Verification and compliance
 - Where to invest and research: **reductions or/and removals?**
 - **Responsibilities** for reducing emissions and increasing removals
 - CDR options play a role for achieving temperature goals already **before 2050**
 - **Removals are different**: some are sustainable, proven, affordable, permanent, some not so much (yet).
- LULUCF no debit rule insufficient
- Non-binding nature restoration goals ineffective



What is the solution?





Ecologic Institute
Science and Policy
for a Sustainable World

Thank you!

nils.meyer-ohlendorfecologic.eu

What are the other options?

- ETS, Climate Action Regulation:
 - CDRs and AEAs / EUA are distinctively different
 - Separate schemes, including trading.
 - Discount factors to address this problem, e.g. 10 CDR units equal an AEA or EUA.
- Involving MS
 - Quantified non-binding reference values
 - MS pledge system