

Can a voluntary Covenant (Round Table) process get the horticultural industry off its peat addiction?

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Stichting Turfvrij



TURFVRIJ
peatfree

>80% of Dutch parliamentarians voted to investigate a peat ban



Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal		2
Vergaderjaar 2020–2021		
21 501-32	Landbouw- en Visserijraad	
Nr. 1324	MOTIE VAN DE LEDEN BOSWIJK EN BROMET Voorgesteld 8 juli 2021	
	De Kamer,	
	gehoord de beraadslaging,	
	constaterende dat turf een van de grootste bestanddelen van potgrond is en dat bij het winnen en gebruik van turf CO ₂ vrijkomt;	
	constaterende dat we in Nederland 4,7 miljoen kuub turf per jaar importeren, waarmee we de grootste importeur van turf in Europa zijn;	
	constaterende dat het gehalte turf in al onze groeiusubstraten 86% is, terwijl in andere landen zoals Zwitserland, in zakken potgrond, dit maar 4% is;	
	verzoekt de regering, om toe te werken naar volledig turfvrjige potgrond voor particulieren;	
	verzoekt de regering, om in samenwerking met VNG en de tuinbouwsector te onderzoeken hoe en op welke termijn het gebruik van turf en turfproducten in de professionele sector voor in ieder geval de gemeenten en de siertuiflt kan worden uitgefaseerd en vervangen kan worden door alternatieven;	
	verzoekt de regering, om de Kamer voor de begrotingsbehandeling te informeren over de stand van zaken,	
	en gaat over tot de orde van de dag.	
	Boswijk Bromet	
op: 1169132-1324 SRA 0121_7871 n-Groenhuus 1021		
Tweede Kamer, vergaderjaar 2020–2021, 21 501-32, nr. 1324		

The Dutch Covenant is a non-binding agreement

Signatories: 12 parties from the conventional horticultural industry, two ministries, and we, as the only NGO

Targets for 'renewable materials' in the professional (80% market share) and hobby markets

Environmental neutrality by 2050 according to the 16 PEF categories as measured by a GME-financed tool that is not transparent after 46 months

Transparency: Ingredients lists and industry figures

The central industry group lobbies for more peat extraction

Stichting Turfvrij left the covenant, which is not ‘broadly supported’ anymore



Final declaration: Bad Zwischenahn, November 5th 2025

Urgent need for “European Agenda” to secure availability of strategic raw materials for substrates

“Simplify the regulatory framework for peat extraction and use”



Join our position paper

Urgent call for a peat reduction strategy and against the expansion of peat extraction

The crucial role of peatlands in regulating the climate and water cycles, while supporting unique biodiversity, is widely recognised. Globally, peat soils store twice as much carbon as all the world's forest biomass combined, despite occupying ten times less land.¹ Peat extraction rapidly releases these vast carbon stores, accumulated over millennia, and degrades the ecosystem services they provide.

Peat extraction contradicts international agreements

In the context of the EU's ambition to achieve climate neutrality, an additional Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF) carbon sink of 77 to 127 Mt CO₂-eq remains necessary to meet the climate objectives of this sector.² Peat extraction for horticulture alone releases about 10 Mt CO₂-eq annually.³ Continuing or expanding peat extraction would



<https://tinyurl.com/3z2f9ekx>

Sign by sending an email to info@turfvrij.nl

Organisation name	Organisation type	Country
Michael Succow Foundation, partner in the Greifswald Mire Centre	NGO	Germany
Natuurmonumenten	Vereniging (association) met 968,000 members	The Netherlands
WWF France	NGO	France
International Mire Conservation Group	NGO	International
Department of Ecology, Radboud University	University department	The Netherlands

Name, title	Profession/ Job title	Organisation
Prof. Dr. Hans Joosten	Professor, Deutscher Umweltpreisträger	The Peatland Library, partner in the Greifswald Mire Centre
Ufuk Kâhya	Member of the European Parliament	PRO Europa the Greens/EFA
Alexander de Roo	Co-founder of the Dutch Green Party, ex-Member of the European Parliament	PRO (political party), the Netherlands
Prof. Dr. Dave Goulson	Professor of Biology	University of Sussex, UK

Binding or voluntary agreements?

Looking at Switzerland and the UK, (the prospect of) binding agreements brings
Innovation by Regulation

We need binding agreements using
targets differentiated by sub-sectors
transparency and independent scientific oversight
providing a long-term framework
providing a win-win for the environment, industry and customers

Articles showing the effect of binding agreements: German: <https://tinyurl.com/53tft4pv>
Dutch: <https://tinyurl.com/bdyacd79>

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THIS IS TURFVRIJ.NL (PEAT FREE)

Small Change.

Peatla
emissi