



Challenges for (Baltic) peat industry, part 4

Estonian peat report – end of the dream?

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Illustrations by **3ancky**



The peat paradigm in Estonia may change. A major game changer is the preparation of climate law i.e.

The law of climate-resilient economy

The draft is published, but nobody is happy.

I DON'T BELIEVE IN
GLOBAL WARMING


**IF YOU REPEAT A
LIE OFTEN ENOUGH,
IT BECOMES ~~TRUTH~~**

POLITICS



Work with the draft has brought all sectors into focus, including peat. That has allowed the Greens to get their lobby machine working at full capacity.

Peat has become part of public debate – also, attacks and defense.



As peat looks bad in IPCC statistics, it is a low-hanging fruit for governments to improve the statistics instead of changing the international reporting system.

It is especially important to consider the image that has been created.

Environmental lobbyists have significantly improved their positions and intertwined with several authorities. For example, the climate minister's scientific adviser is the long-term chairwoman of the Estonian Fund for Nature Council.

Her involvement has become an inside joke in authorities.

The really poor quality of governance magnifies the situation. Knowledge about peat is poor, and nobody cares.





The Supreme Court has made several weighty decisions in favour of environmentalists in environmental disputes over the past year.

One of the main ones concerned peat.

That will directly and significantly impact the entire licensing process in the future.

We do not expect license permitting to be stopped entirely, but it will certainly be curtailed.

There is reason to expect that the acquisition of new permits will be linked to local value-adding.

The export of the raw material may be taxed.



It is now unequivocally clear that environmental organisations aim to close the sector sooner or later in Estonia.

The lack of alternative solutions or socio-economic impact is not their concern. „Dumbo“ must die.



NO FUTURE



Despite previous, there are many who support the peat sector. Not all officials, scientists or environmentalists are against peat production. Neither is public opinion.

Still, the industry is running out of time; prompt action is needed.

Concrete solutions are needed latest by the middle of the second LULUCF reporting period, i.e., within 5 years.



The main bet should be put on the science.

Stop following
the false
narratives.

The climate
impact of
horticultural peat
is almost non-
existent.

Dedicated studies
are needed.



Prompt
restoration,
optimization of
production sites
and innovation is
needed.

The mindset of
the industry must
change.



Everyone can have their interests except the peat producers.

The only good peat producer is a dead peat producer.

No one in Brussels directly represents the interests of peat producers.

This gap must be filled.

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I Slightly edited I

The sector should not allow itself to be cancelled.

Everyone must do more.





Thank you

There is always hope - dream lives on