

Conference
Soil, Climate Change and Biodiversity – Where do we stand?
Brussels, Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th September 2010

Programme



Thursday 23rd September 2010

8.00 **Registration desk opens**

9.00 Welcome and Introduction by the Chair

Mr Karl Falkenberg, Director-General, Environment DG, European Commission

Key note addresses

9.15 The links between soil, climate change and biodiversity

Mr Janez Potočnik, Environment Commissioner, European Commission

9.30 The natural fix – The role of ecosystems in climate mitigation

Mr Tim Kasten, Deputy Director of the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya

10.00 Coffee break

First session

What we know about carbon stocks in Europe and beyond?

Chair: Mr Michael Hamell, Head of the Agriculture, Forests and Soil Unit, Environment Directorate-General, European Commission

10.30 The projected effects of climate change on European carbon stocks

Mr Riccardo Valentini, Università della Tuscia, Viterbo, Italy

11.00 Preliminary results of a Europe-wide survey on soil organic matter levels

Mr Roland Hiederer, Institute for Environment and Sustainability, Joint Research Centre, Ispra, Italy

11.30 Soil organic carbon: a trigger in the climate change process

Mr Franz Makeschin, Chairman of the Soil Protection Commission, Umweltbundesamt, Dessau, Germany

12.00 Questions and answers

12.30 Break for lunch

Second session

The role of agriculture in providing ecosystem services

Chair: *Mr Leen Hordijk, Director, Institute for Environment and Sustainability, Joint Research Centre, Ispra, Italy*

14.00 Soil ecosystem services and farmers economy: preliminary results of the SoilService research project

Ms Katarina Hedlund, Lund University, Lund, Sweden

14.30 Agricultural practices that favour the increase of soil organic matter

Mr Philippe Ciais, Associate Director, Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement, Gif-sur-Yvette, France

15.00 Questions and answers

15.30 Coffee break

Fourth session

The contribution of soils to mitigation and adaptation

Chair: *Mr Jos Delbeke, Director-General, Climate Action DG, European Commission*

16.00 Presentation of the Soil Atlas of the Circumpolar Region

Mr Luca Montanarella, Soil Action Leader, Institute for Environment and Sustainability, Joint Research Centre, Ispra, Italy

16.30 The conservation of peatlands: a win-win opportunity for fighting climate change, protecting water and maintaining biodiversity

Mr Matthias Drösler, Technische Universität München, Freising, Germany

17.00 Questions and answers

17.30 Closing remarks

Mr Jos Delbeke, Director-General, Climate Action DG, European Commission

17.45- **Cocktail reception**

19.15

Friday 24th September 2010

9.00 Welcome and Introduction by the Chair

Mr Ladislav Miko, Director for Nature, Environment DG, European Commission

Key note address

9.15 Soils for food security, ecosystem services and climate change adaptation and mitigation

Ms Vandana Shiva, Director of the Foundation for Science, Technology and Natural Resource Policy, New Delhi, India

Fifth session

The life we walk on – The huge variety of biodiversity in soil

- 9.45 Presentation of the Soil Biodiversity Atlas of the Joint Research Centre
Mr Ciro Gardi, Institute for Environment and Sustainability, Joint Research Centre, Ispra, Italy
- 10.15 The huge variety of life in soils
Professor Wim H. Van der Putten, Netherlands Institute of Ecology, The Netherlands
- 10.45 Coffee break
- 11.10 The biological engine of the earth: the functional role of soil biodiversity
Mr Karl Ritz, Cranfield University, United Kingdom
- 11.30 Soil biodiversity: an excellent way to raise soil awareness
Ms Gabriele Broll, University of Osnabrück, Germany
- 11.50 Questions and answers
- 12.15 Break for lunch

Sixth session

The policy aspects of soil biodiversity protection

Chair: *Mr Leen Hordijk, Director, Institute for Environment and Sustainability, Joint Research Centre, Ispra, Italy*

- 13.45 Soil biodiversity at the international level post 2010
Mr David Coates, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal, Canada
- 14.15 Making soil biodiversity work for ecosystem goods and services
Mr Lijbert Brussaard, Wageningen University, The Netherlands
- 14.45 Questions and answers
- 15.00 Coffee break
- 15.30 ***Panel discussion***
Soil, climate change and biodiversity: synergies and opportunities

Moderator:

Mr Karl Falkenberg, Director-General, Environment DG, European Commission

Participants:

- *Mr Marnix De Vrieze, Head of Land and Soil Protection, Subsoil, and Natural Resources Division, Flanders, representative of the Belgian Presidency of the Council*
- *Mr Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Member of the Environment Committee, European Parliament*
- *Mr Tim Kasten, Deputy Director of the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya*

- *Mr Landislav Miko, Director for Nature, Environment DG, European Commission*
- *Ms Vandana Shiva, Director of the Foundation for Science, Technology and Natural Resource Policy, New Delhi, India*

17.30 Closing remarks

Mr Karl Falkenberg, Director-General, Environment DG, European Commission

17.45 **End of conference**