

Conference
Climate change – can soil make a difference?
Brussels, Thursday 12th June 2008

Final Programme

8.00 **Registration desk opens**

9.00 Welcome

Mr Michael Hamell, Head of Unit, Environment DG, European Commission

9.05 Introduction by the Chair

Mr Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Bonn, Germany

Key note address

9.15 Why is soil organic matter so important?

Mr Stavros Dimas, Environment Commissioner, European Commission

First session

Soil – the biggest terrestrial carbon pool

9.30 The projected effects of climate change in Europe

Professor Jean-Pascal van Ypersele, Vice-Chair of WG II "Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability" of IPCC, Professor at the Institut d'Astronomie et de Géophysique "Georges Lemaître", UCL, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

10.00 The role of soil organic matter in the global carbon cycle

Professor Rattan Lal, Ohio University, Carbon Management and Sequestration Center, Columbus, Ohio, USA

10.30 Questions and answers

11.00 Coffee break

Second session

The evolution of soil carbon stocks

11.30 UK losses of soil carbon – due to climate change?

Mrs Pat H. Bellamy, National Soil Resources Institute, Cranfield University, United Kingdom

11.45 Emissions from peat soils

Dr Jari Liski, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), Research Programme for Global Change, Helsinki, Finland

12.00 Changes in soil organic matter in relation with land use and agricultural practices

Dr Dominique Arrouays, Directeur Unité Infosol, INRA, Orléans, France

12.15 Emissions due to land use changes in Brazil

Professor Carlos C. Cerri, CENA-USP, Laboratório de Biogeoquímica Ambiental, Piracicaba, Brazil

12.30 Questions and answers

13.00 Break for lunch

Third session

How to ensure that soil is part of the solution to climate change?

14.30 The role of agricultural practices in keeping or increasing soil organic matter
Professor Peter Smith, Lead Author of the IPCC Good Practice Guidelines 2006, Professor of Soils and Global Change, University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom

15.00 Evaluation of the potential of selected measures to reduce carbon emissions and sequester carbon in European soils
Dr Annette Freibauer, Co-ordinator of the EU CarboEurope-Integrated Project, Max-Planck-Institute for Biogeochemistry, Jena, Germany

15.30 Questions and answers

16.00 Coffee break

Fourth session

16.30 ***Panel discussion on the policy implications***

Moderator:

Mr Grant Lawrence, former Director in the Environment Directorate-General of the European Commission, Brussels

Participants:

- *Mr Staffan Nilsson, Rapporteur on the Soil Thematic Strategy, European Economic and Social Committee, Brussels*
- *Mr Janez Podobnik, Minister of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia*
- *Mr Vittorio Prodi, Rapporteur on the Soil Thematic Strategy and Vice-Chairman of the Temporary Committee on Climate Change, European Parliament, Brussels*
- *Mr Humberto Rosa, Secretary of State for Environment, Portugal*
- *Ms Þórunn Sveinbjarnardóttir, Minister for the Environment, Iceland*

Final remarks

18.00 *Mr Jos Delbeke, Deputy Director-General, Environment DG, European Commission*

18.10 Closing remarks by the Chair

Mr Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Bonn, Germany

18.15 **End of conference**

18.15- **Cocktail reception**

19.45