

Thematic Strategy on Soil Protection - organisations

Status : Closed

Date open : 2005-07-28

End date : 2005-09-26

662 responses

Identification

Are you replying

		% of total
as an individual expert	377	(56.9%)
on behalf of an organisation	285	(43.1%)

Country where your organisation is based

		% of total
DE - Germany	84	(12.7%)
FR - France	50	(7.6%)
AT - Austria	25	(3.8%)
NL - Netherlands	24	(3.6%)
UK - United Kingdom	24	(3.6%)
BE - Belgium	15	(2.3%)
HU - Hungary	10	(1.5%)
IT - Italy	9	(1.4%)
BG - Bulgaria	7	(1.1%)
FI - Finland	5	(0.8%)
PL - Poland	4	(0.6%)
SE - Sweden	4	(0.6%)
CH - Switzerland	4	(0.6%)
ES - Spain	3	(0.5%)
NO - Norway	3	(0.5%)
DK - Denmark	2	(0.3%)
CY - Cyprus	1	(0.2%)
CZ - Czech Republic	1	(0.2%)
EL - Greece	1	(0.2%)
IE - Ireland	1	(0.2%)
LT - Lithuania	1	(0.2%)
MT - Malta	1	(0.2%)
PT - Portugal	1	(0.2%)
SK - Slovak Republic	1	(0.2%)
OTHER	1	(0.2%)
EE - Estonia		(%)
LU - Luxembourg		(%)
LV - Latvia		(%)
SI - Slovenia		(%)
IS - Iceland		(%)
LI - Liechtenstein		(%)
TR - Turkey		(%)
RO - Romania		(%)

Area of activity		
		% of total
Public administration	89	(13.4%)
other, please specify	42	(6.3%)
Academic Institution (university, ...)	29	(4.4%)
Environmental NGO	26	(3.9%)
Industry	23	(3.5%)
Business Organisation	21	(3.2%)
Consultancy	21	(3.2%)
Industry of remediation of contaminated soil	13	(2%)
Farmer Organisation	11	(1.7%)
Trade association	4	(0.6%)
Trade Union	3	(0.5%)
Consumer NGO	1	(0.2%)

In line with good practice on stakeholder consultation, the Commission will publish the responses on its website, together with a summary, identifying who has said what and how the contributions will be taken into account. Would you prefer your comments to remain anonymous?		
		% of total
No	170	(25.7%)
Yes	110	(16.6%)

Was your organisation or were you, as an expert, involved in the working groups established by the Commission for the development of soil policy?		
		% of total
No	510	(77%)
Yes	150	(22.7%)

General Questions

Do you consider yourself well informed about the importance of soil and soil functions for human activities and the survival of ecosystems? (Tick only one)		
		% of total
I am sufficiently well informed	532	(80.4%)
I know the basics	109	(16.5%)
I know very little	6	(0.9%)

Almost all human activities are based on soil. Is your area of activity relying on some of these soil functions? Tick as many as applicable

		% of total
soil contributing to the good quality of surface water, groundwater and drinking water	544	(82.2%)
soil contributing to production of agricultural goods, timber and other biomass	406	(61.3%)
soil as the habitat of many organisms which are important for the ecosystems	381	(57.6%)
soil as the basis of different landscapes of interest (e.g. protected areas)	337	(50.9%)
preservation of archaeological and geological heritage	148	(22.4%)
extraction, production of clay, sand, aggregates, peat or other raw mineral materials	130	(19.6%)

How would you rank the importance of preventing and mitigating soil degradation in the EU?

		% of total
Very important	454	(68.6%)
Important	143	(21.6%)
important but less than other environmental problems	58	(8.8%)
not important at all	3	(0.5%)
I don't know	2	(0.3%)

Soil Threats

Which of these soil threats do you consider are most relevant to your activity?

		% of total
contamination	481	(72.7%)
erosion	387	(58.5%)
organic matter decline	326	(49.2%)
sealing	301	(45.5%)
soil biodiversity loss	278	(42%)
compaction	245	(37%)
salinisation	98	(14.8%)
landslides	61	(9.2%)
I don't know	5	(0.8%)

With regard to these threats, for which would you think action is most needed? (tick a maximum of three)

		% of total
contamination	456	(68.9%)
erosion	400	(60.4%)
sealing	275	(41.5%)
organic matter decline	251	(37.9%)
soil biodiversity loss	195	(29.5%)
compaction	107	(16.2%)
salinisation	68	(10.3%)
landslides	38	(5.7%)
I don't know	3	(0.5%)

Although type and characteristics are very variable across Europe, soil is subject in many countries to the same threats. Soil is a static media, nevertheless, soil degradation has transboundary impacts. Against this background, which of the following courses of action is the most appropriate?

		% of total
a framework is developed at EU level and measures are established at national/local level	581	(87.8%)
all measures are established at EU level	38	(5.7%)
no action is taken at EU level	31	(4.7%)
I don't know	11	(1.7%)

How would you rank the importance for your activity to know where these threats are or might be occurring in the national territory?

		% of total
Very important	316	(47.7%)
Important	239	(36.1%)
Medium	73	(11%)
Low	28	(4.2%)
I don't know	4	(0.6%)

Do you think that the identification of areas at risk of these threats is the correct way to tackle soil protection?

		% of total
Yes, it is important to know where the problem is or might be occurring	581	(87.8%)
No, other approaches are better	63	(9.5%)
I don't know	15	(2.3%)

Sealing

How important do you think this problem is?

		% of total
Very important	301	(45.5%)
Important	243	(36.7%)
Medium	90	(13.6%)
Low	17	(2.6%)
I don't know	8	(1.2%)

How important is it to take soil protection aspects into account in land use planning?

		% of total
very important	421	(63.6%)
important	195	(29.5%)
medium	30	(4.5%)
low	6	(0.9%)
I don't know	6	(0.9%)

Erosion, organic matter decline, salinisation, compaction, landslides

For EROSION, which measures do you believe are appropriate? (tick as many as applicable)

		% of total
hedgerows and groves	371	(56%)
choice of crops/crop rotations	365	(55.1%)
winter cover	357	(53.9%)
catch and interim crops	326	(49.2%)
conservation tillage	305	(46.1%)
restricting construction works on particularly vulnerable sites	291	(44%)
afforestation of agricultural and degraded land	288	(43.5%)
contour ploughing	262	(39.6%)
use of organic soil improvers/exogenous organic matter (e.g. compost)	224	(33.8%)
change of arable to grassland	222	(33.5%)
creating buffer strips	201	(30.4%)
restrictions on some practices of clearfelling of timber	199	(30.1%)
appropriate timing of ploughing	194	(29.3%)
mulching	190	(28.7%)
terraces	184	(27.8%)
restricting heavy machinery use	168	(25.4%)
restricting uncontrolled burning	165	(24.9%)
adjusting stocking rates	153	(23.1%)
adjusting duration and season of grazing	106	(16%)
appropriate site preparation techniques for afforestation	104	(15.7%)
regulating controlled burning	97	(14.7%)
growing fire resilient plant communities	49	(7.4%)
I don't know	41	(6.2%)

Would these measures (or one in particular) have a POSITIVE economic and/or social impact on your activity?

		% of total
none	169	(25.5%)
negligible	146	(22.1%)
I don't know	123	(18.6%)
high	111	(16.8%)
medium	78	(11.8%)

Would these measures (or one in particular) have a NEGATIVE economic and/or social impact on your activity?

		% of total
none	288	(43.5%)
negligible	160	(24.2%)
I don't know	114	(17.2%)
medium	36	(5.4%)
high	20	(3%)

For ORGANIC MATTER DECLINE and SOIL BIODIVERSITY loss, which measures do you think are appropriate? (Tick as many as applicable)

		% of total
incorporation of crop residues	394	(59.5%)
choice of appropriate crops/crop rotations	388	(58.6%)
use of organic soil improvers/exogenous organic matter (e.g. composts)	366	(55.3%)
conservation tillage	283	(42.7%)
catch and interim crops	279	(42.1%)
hedgerows and groves.	273	(41.2%)
reduce deforestation	267	(40.3%)
change of arable to grassland	228	(34.4%)
restrict uncontrolled burning of crop residues	181	(27.3%)
increase of water table to restore cultivated peat soils	166	(25.1%)
creating buffer strips	147	(22.2%)
adjusting stocking rates	123	(18.6%)
regulate controlled burning	114	(17.2%)
I don't know	46	(6.9%)
growing of fire resilient plant communities	39	(5.9%)

Would these measures (or one in particular) have a POSITIVE economic and/or social impact on your activity?

		% of total
none	175	(26.4%)
negligible	151	(22.8%)
I don't know	126	(19%)
high	93	(14%)
medium	79	(11.9%)

Would these measures (or one in particular) have a NEGATIVE economic and/or social impact on your activity?

		% of total
none	291	(44%)
negligible	148	(22.4%)
I don't know	122	(18.4%)
medium	31	(4.7%)
high	15	(2.3%)

For COMPACTION, which measures do you believe are appropriate? (tick as many as applicable)

		% of total
cultivation at optimal soil moisture	413	(62.4%)
restricting excessive heavy machinery use	409	(61.8%)
low pressure tyres	336	(50.8%)
especially designed machinery	302	(45.6%)
conservation tillage	258	(39%)
adjusting duration and season of grazing	212	(32%)
adjusting stocking rates	184	(27.8%)
drainage to improve soil strength	137	(20.7%)
change from agriculture to forestry	115	(17.4%)
deep ploughing/depth loosening	109	(16.5%)
I don't know	80	(12.1%)

Would these measures (or one in particular) have a POSITIVE economic and/or social impact on your activity?

		% of total
none	214	(32.3%)
negligible	157	(23.7%)
I don't know	126	(19%)
medium	65	(9.8%)
high	49	(7.4%)

Would these measures (or one in particular) have a NEGATIVE economic and/or social impact on your activity?

		% of total
none	293	(44.3%)
negligible	141	(21.3%)
I don't know	119	(18%)
medium	31	(4.7%)
high	16	(2.4%)

For SALINISATION, which measures do you believe are appropriate? (tick as many as applicable)

		% of total
use of appropriate irrigation techniques and equipment	361	(54.5%)
use of appropriate water quality	318	(48%)
choice of crops/crop rotation.	224	(33.8%)
drainage of irrigated land	191	(28.9%)
I don't know	172	(26%)
use of organic soil improvers(e.g. compost) with predominance of humic acids	141	(21.3%)
change from arable to grassland	80	(12.1%)
Washing the soil	71	(10.7%)
use of acid fertilizers	33	(5%)

Would these measures (or one in particular) have a POSITIVE economic and/or social impact on your activity?

		% of total
none	219	(33.1%)
I don't know	159	(24%)
negligible	134	(20.2%)
medium	40	(6%)
high	33	(5%)

Would these measures (or one in particular) have a NEGATIVE economic and/or social impact on your activity?

		% of total
none	281	(42.4%)
I don't know	152	(23%)
negligible	119	(18%)
medium	19	(2.9%)
high	6	(0.9%)

Which of these measures, do you believe are the most appropriate to prevent LANDSLIDES in risk areas? (Tick as many as applicable)

		% of total
establishing, maintaining landscape elements such as terraces, hedgerows, groves	477	(72.1%)
land use restrictions (e.g. restricting constructions in some agricultural or forest land)	443	(66.9%)
codes for construction (e.g. criteria for excavation, construction, and grading)	305	(46.1%)
preventing land abandonment	175	(26.4%)
protective measure for existing constructions	153	(23.1%)
developing early warning system	129	(19.5%)
I don't know	99	(15%)

Would these measures (or one in particular) have a POSITIVE economic and/or social impact on your activity?

		% of total
none	223	(33.7%)
negligible	152	(23%)
I don't know	140	(21.1%)
medium	39	(5.9%)
high	38	(5.7%)

Would these measures (or one in particular) have a NEGATIVE economic and/or social impact on your activity?

		% of total
none	296	(44.7%)
I don't know	130	(19.6%)
negligible	126	(19%)
medium	20	(3%)
high	8	(1.2%)

Contamination

Is your activity affected by soil contamination?

		% of total
Yes	375	(56.6%)
No	282	(42.6%)

Is your activity considered a "potentially soil polluting activity" in your country?

		% of total
no	495	(74.8%)
yes	93	(14%)
in my country there is no such classification	42	(6.3%)
I do not know	28	(4.2%)

In the views of your organisation, or your expert view, the definition of a contaminated site should be based on

		% of total
risk to human health and the environment	491	(74.2%)
concentration levels for contaminants	158	(23.9%)
I don't know	10	(1.5%)

Please indicate to which extent you agree with the following statement: A potential buyer of a parcel of land is entitled to know if a soil polluting activity took place or is taking place in the site.

		% of total
I agree fully	579	(87.5%)
I rather agree	75	(11.3%)
I disagree completely	3	(0.5%)
I rather disagree	1	(0.2%)
I don't know/No opinion	1	(0.2%)

Please indicate to which extent you agree with the following statement: If there is/has been a soil polluting activity on the site, the potential buyer of that parcel of land is entitled to have a report of the state of the soil therein

		% of total
I agree fully	504	(76.1%)
I rather agree	134	(20.2%)
I rather disagree	13	(2%)
I don't know/No opinion	5	(0.8%)
I disagree completely	3	(0.5%)

Please indicate to which extent you agree with the following statement: Every Member State must establish an inventory of contaminated sites in their national territory.

		% of total
I agree fully	434	(65.6%)
I rather agree	163	(24.6%)
I rather disagree	35	(5.3%)
I don't know/No opinion	14	(2.1%)
I disagree completely	12	(1.8%)

Please indicate to which extent you agree with the following statement: The inventory of contaminated sites shall be made available for the public to consult.

		% of total
I agree fully	379	(57.3%)
I rather agree	189	(28.5%)
I rather disagree	48	(7.3%)
I disagree completely	29	(4.4%)
I don't know/No opinion	15	(2.3%)

Please indicate to which extent you agree with the following statement: On the basis of the inventory produced, every Member State must establish a plan for the remediation of the contaminated sites identified.

		% of total
I agree fully	343	(51.8%)
I rather agree	195	(29.5%)
I rather disagree	77	(11.6%)
I disagree completely	29	(4.4%)
I don't know/No opinion	15	(2.3%)

Private ownership

Land owners must have a duty of care to ensure that soil is used in a sustainable manner

		% of total
I agree fully	465	(70.2%)
I rather agree	162	(24.5%)
I rather disagree	19	(2.9%)
I disagree completely	10	(1.5%)
I don't know/No opinion	4	(0.6%)

Feedback on questionnaire

Thank you for your co-operation. What is your opinion of this questionnaire?

		% of total
it met my expectations	495	(74.8%)
it did not meet my expectations	142	(21.5%)

If it did not, why so?

		% of total
too general	94	(14.2%)
content not pertinent	26	(3.9%)
too short	6	(0.9%)
too difficult to understand	5	(0.8%)
too technical	1	(0.2%)
too long	1	(0.2%)