



EU Soil stakeholders' Conference

5th December 2016

**Management Centre Europe (MCE), 118 Rue de
l'Aqueduc, 1050 Brussels**

Final Agenda

Introduction

The Directorate General for Environment of the European Commission organises an EU Soil stakeholders' conference in Brussels on 5th December 2016. This event is a contribution of the European Commission to the World Soil Day 2016 aiming at raising awareness on the importance of soils and the ecosystem services that they deliver. It is also a contribution to the implementation of the EU Soil Thematic Strategy¹.

The objective of this conference is to present the inventory of soil-related legislation at EU and national level and gap analysis, as well as the first outcomes of the MAES Soil pilot². This will lead to discussions with stakeholders on challenges and further policy developments.

The conference will consist of two plenary sessions and four parallel working sessions. Keynote speakers and panelists will be invited to share their views on the way forward for EU soil policy. The parallel working sessions are meant to be interactive, in small groups with moderator and rapporteur for each group. The themes of the parallel sessions will be horizontal (session I identifying challenges and opportunities for further policy development, session II considering the potential of ecosystem services approach) and thematic (session III on soil contamination, session IV on sustainable management of agriculture and forest soils).

The event will take place in the premises of the MCE conference centre in Brussels, starting at 9:30 and finishing at 18:10. This event is open to registered participants only.

The conference will be in English.

¹ COM(2006)231

² Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem Services is part of the EU biodiversity strategy (Action 5) COM(2011)244 – more information on MAES can be found at <http://biodiversity.europa.eu/maes>

Agenda

9:00 Registration - Coffee

9:30 – 12:30 Plenary Session I – State of play of soil policy in the EU to protect soil

Chair: Claudia Olazabal (Head of Land use and Management unit, DG Environment, European Commission)

9:30 – 10:10 Opening session

- Welcome, European Commission, Claudia Olazabal (European Commission, DG Environment)
- Keynote speech, Pr. Olivier De Schutter (University of Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, Co-Chair, International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems - IPES-Food),
- International context and importance of soil sustainable management, Dr Luca Montanarella (European Commission, JRC and Chairman of the International Technical Panel on Soil)

10:10 – 12:30 State of play of soil protection and soil policy in the EU

- 10:10 – 10:25 Overview of key recent activities at EU level, Josiane Masson (European Commission, DG Environment)
- 10:25 – 11:15 Presentation of the inventory of national and EU legislation pertaining to soil protection and gap analysis, Ana Freluh-Larsen (Ecologic Institute), Catherine Bowyer and Clunie Keenleyside (Institute for European Environmental Policy)
- 11:15 - 11:30 Conclusions on the inventory of legislation on soil protection in the EU and identified gaps, Josiane Masson (European Commission, DG Environment)
- 11:30 – 12:30 Panel and debate on soil policy in the EU - Co Molenaar (Senior advisor soil and water, Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, NL), Eric Gall (Policy Manager, IFOAM EU), Pieter Depous (Policy Director, European Environment Bureau), Liisa Pietola (Chairwoman of Working Party on Environment, COPA-COGECA)

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break

13:10 – 14:00 Lunchtime session – European Partnership

- Presentation of the European Soil Partnership and call for European partners, Elena Havlicek, ESP Chair

14:00 – 16:00 Parallel Working Sessions

14:00 – 14:15 Objectives and organisation of the parallel working sessions, Robert Pederson (*Milieu*)

14:15 – 16:15 Parallel working sessions I, II, III, IV

- o Session I: Identifying challenges and opportunities (international agenda, duty of care, comprehensive vs. 'cluster' based approach etc.)
- o Session II: Moving from a physico-chemical mind-set towards a soil ecosystem and ecosystem services approach?
- o Session III: Identification and remediation of contaminated sites - how much public intervention is needed for historically degraded soils?
- o Session IV: How to promote agriculture and forest soil sustainable management?

16:15 – 16:45 Coffee break

16:30 – 18:10 Plenary Session II: Wrap up of parallel sessions and conclusions

16:45 – 18:00 Feedback from parallel sessions by the rapporteurs of the parallel sessions and final discussions with stakeholders

18:00 – 18:10 Conclusions, DG ENV

18:10 End of the conference