



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 14.12.2012
C(2012) 9646 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank Senát for its Opinion concerning the Report from the Commission on 'The implementation of the Soil Thematic Strategy and ongoing activities' {COM(2012) 46 final}. It has taken good note of the concerns expressed therein and, in reply, would like to provide the following information on this issue:

The Commission made a proposal to adopt soil protection legislation at EU level in 2006, but this proposal has not yet been adopted due to opposition in the Council. The Commission is ready to make further efforts to secure an agreement while not jeopardising the added environmental and legal value of the proposed Soil Framework Directive.

In the meantime, the Commission continues to contribute to European soil protection by integrating soil issues into other EU policies, using the results of the European Earth Monitoring Programme (GMES), and evaluating the environmental impacts of biofuels.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Senát and looks forward to continuing our constructive political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Mr Milan ŠTĚCH
President of the Senát
Valdštejnské náměstí 17/4
CZ – 118 01 PRAGUE 1*