

Soil remediation and EU policies: an outlook to 2014-2020

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> Luca Marmo European Commission Environment Directorate-General Unit ENV.B.1 – Agriculture, Forests and Soil BU-5, 5/178 1049 Brussels E-mail: luca.marmo@ec.europa.eu



The broader context



Resource Efficiency Roadmap, COM(2011) 571:

- Milestone: By 2020, EU policies take into account their direct and indirect impact on land use in the EU and globally, and the rate of land take is on track with an aim to achieve no net land take by 2050
- The Commission will (...) publish guidelines on best practice to limit, mitigate or compensate soil sealing (in 2012)



Guidelines on best practice to limit, mitigate or compensate soil sealing

SWD(2012) 101 final/2, 15 May 2012

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/sealing_guidelines.htm



Available in all EU official languages



Available in selected EU official languages





Rio+20: 'The future we want'

205. We [the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives] recognize **the economic and social significance of good land management, including soil**, particularly its contribution to economic growth, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture and food security, eradicating poverty, the empowerment of women, addressing climate change and improving water availability. (...)

206. We recognize the need for urgent action to reverse land degradation. In view of this, we will strive to achieve a land-degradation neutral world in the context of sustainable development. This should act to catalyse financial resources from a range of public and private sources.



Soil contamination in the EU

Soil contamination

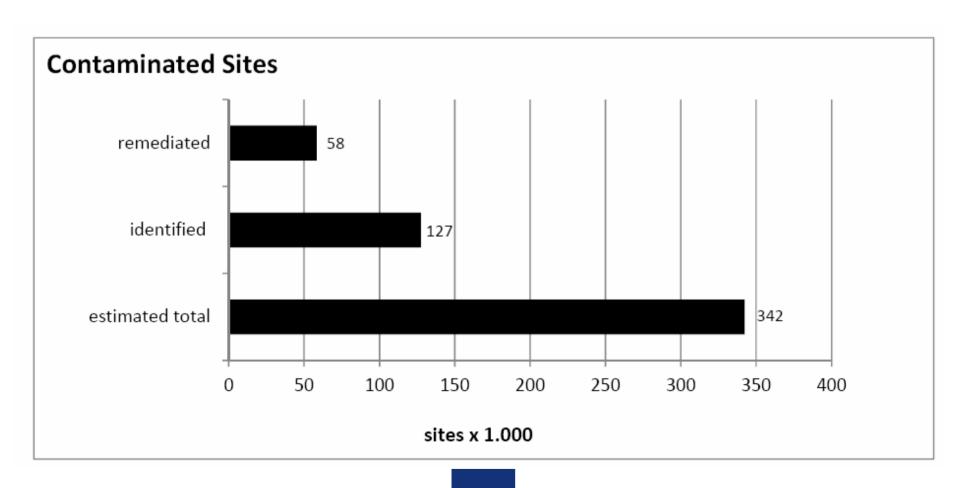


EC 2006 estimations (EU-25)

- Potentially contaminated sites: between 3.25 and 3.6 million
- Contaminated sites:
 between 450,000 and 600,000
- Additional identification costs:€240m per year over 25 years



Progress on contaminated sites (on the basis of draft and incomplete EIONET 2012 data)





Outlook to 2020





Living well, within the limits of our planet

COM(2012) 710, 29.11.2012

Proposal for a general Union Environment Action Programme

Priority objective 1: To protect, conserve and enhance the EU's natural capital

- > (23) To reduce the most significant man-made pressures on land, soil and other ecosystems in Europe, action will be taken to ensure that decisions relating to land use at all relevant levels give proper consideration to environmental as well as social and economic impacts. The Rio+20 Summit outcome called for a 'land degradation neutral world'. The EU and Member States should reflect on how best to make such a commitment operational within their respective competencies as well as to address soil quality issues within a binding legal framework (COM(2006) 232). Targets will also be set for sustainable land use and soil.
- > (26) In order to protect, conserve and enhance the EU's natural capital, the programme shall ensure that by 2020: (e) Land is managed sustainably in the EU, soil is adequately protected and the remediation of contaminated sites is well underway.
- This requires, in particular: (e) Increasing efforts to reduce soil erosion and increase soil organic matter, to remediate contaminated sites and to enhance the integration of land use aspects into coordinated decision-making involving all relevant levels of government, supported by the adoption of targets on soil and on land as a resource, and land planning objectives.



Regional Policy proposals

Cohesion Policy Regulation, COM(2011) 612, 6.10.2011 European Regional Development Fund, COM(2011) 614, 6.10.2011

- Limit, mitigate or compensate soil sealing and thus limit land take on greenfields
- Promote the regeneration of brownfield sites and more generally the remediation of contaminated sites, respecting the 'polluter pays' principle

Horizon 2020



- A single programme bringing together three separate programmes/initiatives*
- Coupling research to innovation from research to retail, all forms of innovation
- Focus on societal challenges facing EU society, e.g. health, clean energy and transport
- Simplified access, for all companies, universities, institutes in all EU countries and beyond.

^{*}The 7th Research Framework Programme (FP7), innovation aspects of Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP), EU contribution to the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

International



- First plenary assembly of FAO's Global Soil Partnership on 11-12 June 2013
- FAO's proposal to the UN General Assembly to endorse the World Soil Day on 5 December
- FAO's proposal to the UN General Assembly to proclaim an International Year of Soils in 2015
- Second Global Soil Week organised by the IASS on 28-31 October 2013 in Berlin

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Some final comments



- Binding EU soil framework needed
- Breaking of silos, including among scientists
- Coordination of competent authorities and different levels of government
- Funding opportunities



Thank you for your attention!



http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index.htm