



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

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# The broader context





## Resource Efficiency Roadmap, COM(2011) 571:

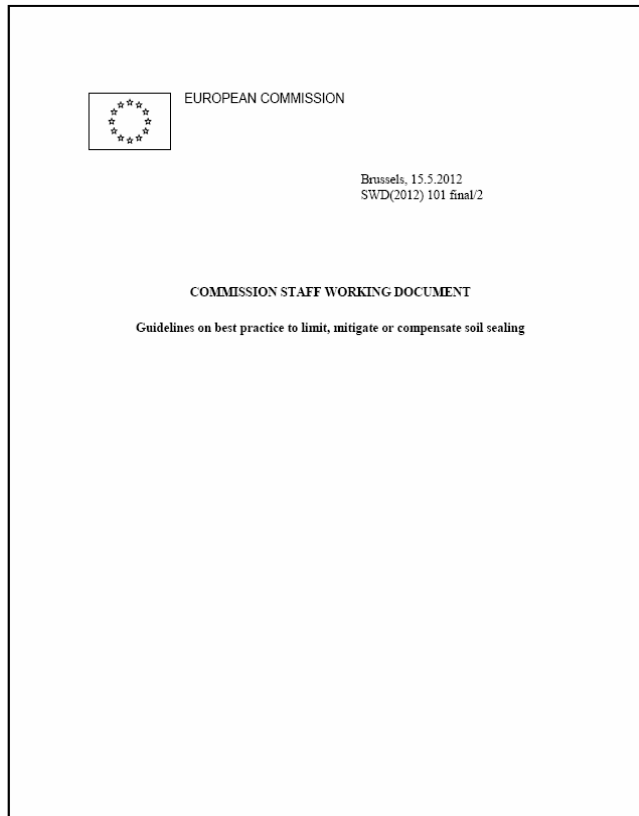
- *Milestone: By 2020, EU policies take into account their direct and indirect impact on land use in the EU and globally, and the rate of land take is on track with an aim to achieve **no net land take by 2050***
- *The Commission will (...) publish guidelines on best practice to limit, mitigate or compensate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



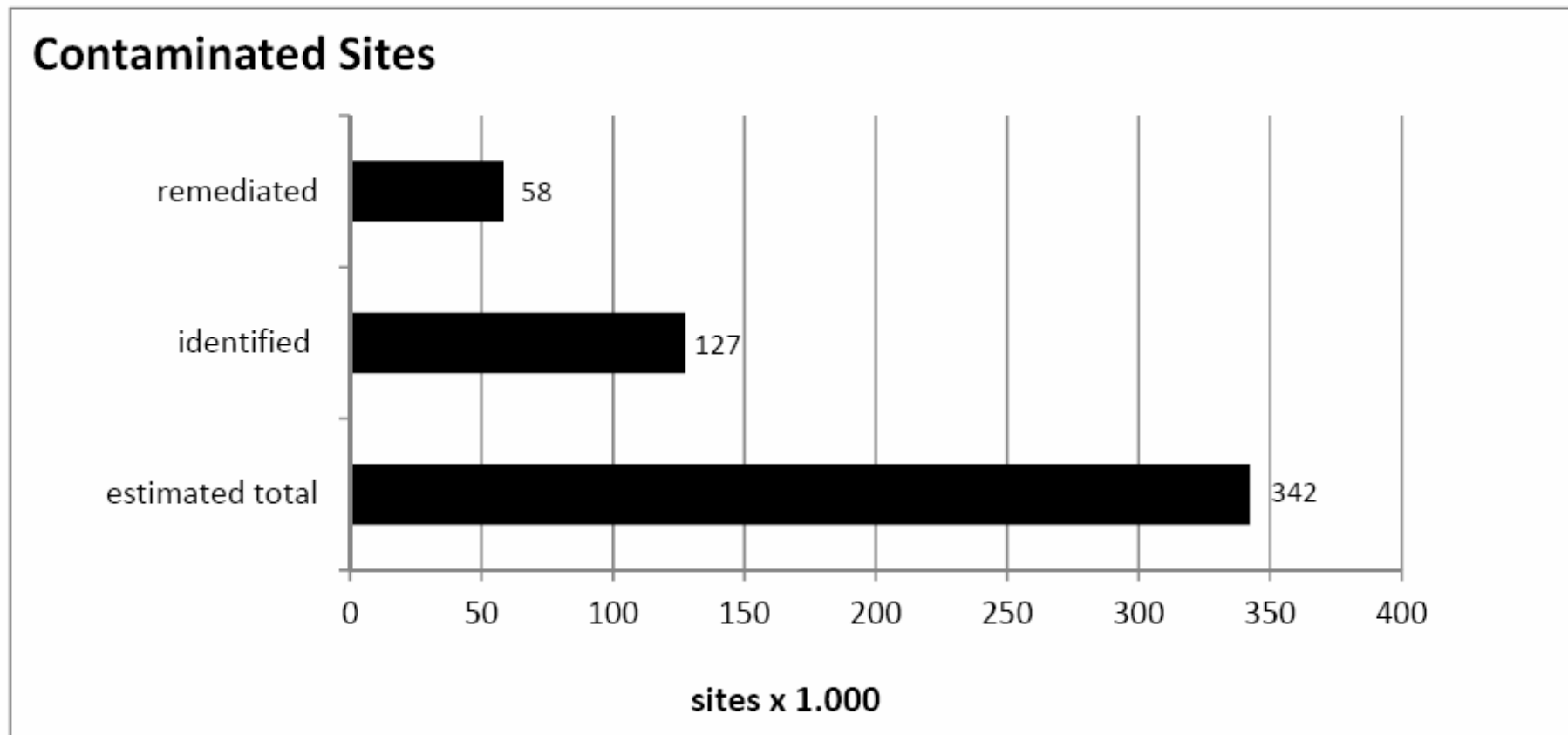


## EC 2006 estimations (EU-25)

- ❖ 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
- ❖ Estimated management (remediation) costs  
(including groundwater): **€119bn**



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







# Outlook to 2020







# 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)





- ❖ 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
- ❖ ...





# 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>

