



# Recent and upcoming developments on soil and land

**Workshop on "Fostering innovative dialogue between researchers and stakeholders to meet future challenges: Land, Soil, Desertification, urban and Community-Based Environmental Management"**

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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](mailto:luca.marmo@ec.europa.eu)*



# Setting the context

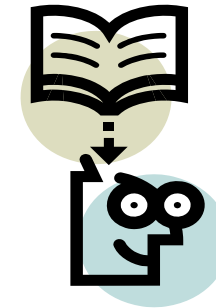




# The Soil Thematic Strategy

## Communication

COM(2006)231, 22.9.2006



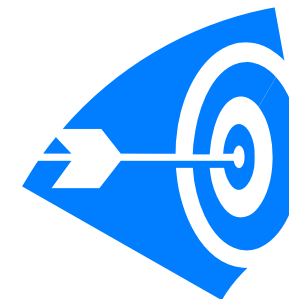
## Proposal for a Soil Framework Directive

COM(2006)232, 22.9.2006



## Impact Assessment

SEC(2006)1165 & SEC(2006)620, 22.9.2006





## 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; **soil erosion** is reduced and the **soil organic matter** increased, with remedial work on **contaminated sites** well underway.*
- *The Commission will (...) publish guidelines on best practice to limit, mitigate or compensate soil sealing (in 2012)*





# 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.*

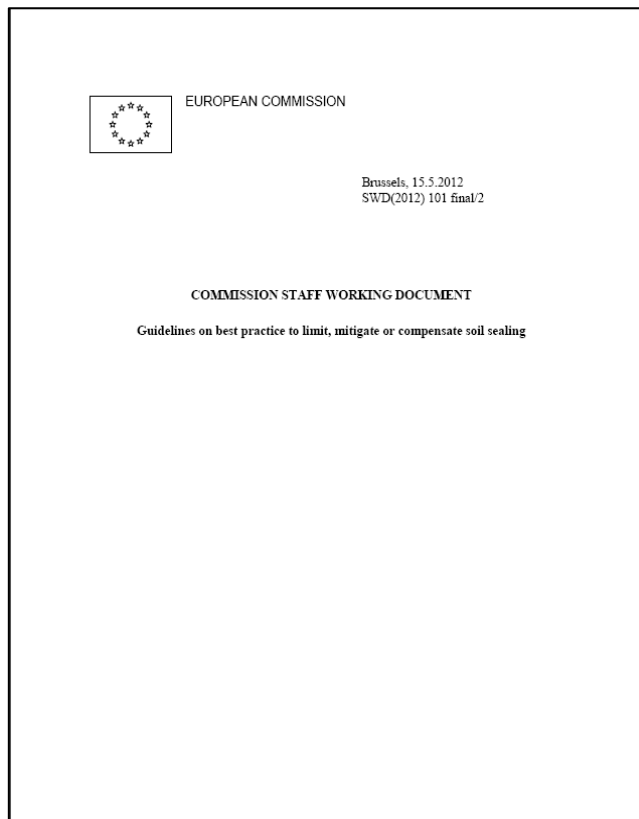


European  
Commission

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

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

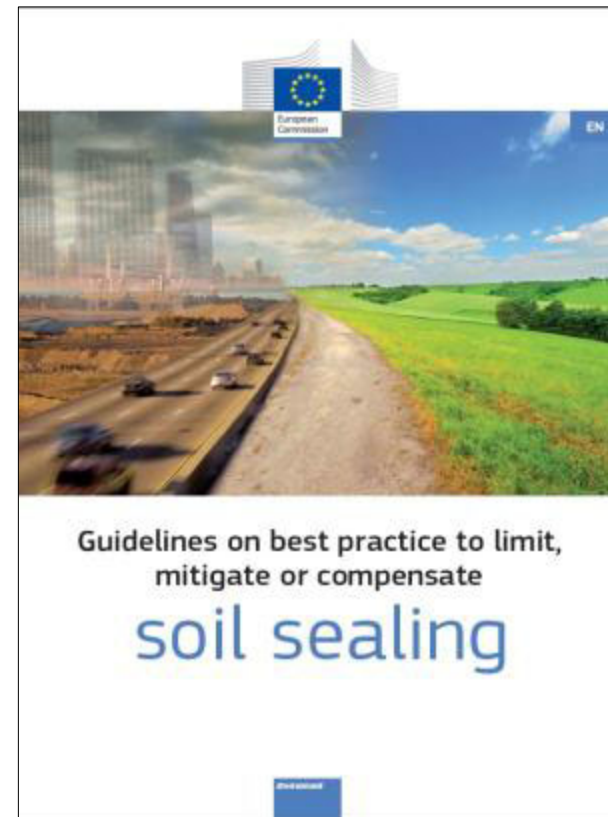
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/sealing\\_guidelines.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/sealing_guidelines.htm)



Available  
in all EU  
official  
languages



Available  
in selected  
EU official  
languages





# 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





## 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.





# International



- ❖ Meeting of the **Open Working Group on SDGs** on 22-24 May 2013 on the cluster Food-Agriculture-DLDD
- ❖ Report of the **High-Level Panel** of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda published on 31 May 2013
- ❖ 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
- ❖ **UNCCD developments** (more from Patrick Wegerdt)
- ❖ Second **Global Soil Week** organised by the IASS on 28-31 October 2013 in Berlin
- ❖ ...



# Thank you for your attention!



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

