



# THEMATIC STRATEGY ON **SOIL PROTECTION**



**Niek de Wit**

**European Commission**

**DG Environment- Unit Agriculture, forests and soil**

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# WHY A THEMATIC STRATEGY ON SOIL?



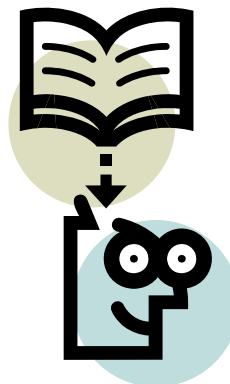
- ❖ Soil is a practically **non-renewable** natural resource
- ❖ Soil performs **crucial functions** for human activities and ecosystems survival
- ❖ Soils are increasingly degrading or irreversibly lost across the EU => the Community *acquis* is manifestly **not sufficient**
- ❖ **Costs** of soil degradation are **very high** and are mainly **borne by society** and not by the land users
- ❖ There is **no specific EU legislation** on soil protection, hence a need for a comprehensive protective approach
- ❖ Commitment in the **6th EAP** to adopt a Thematic Strategy on soil protection



# CONTENT OF THE THEMATIC STRATEGY



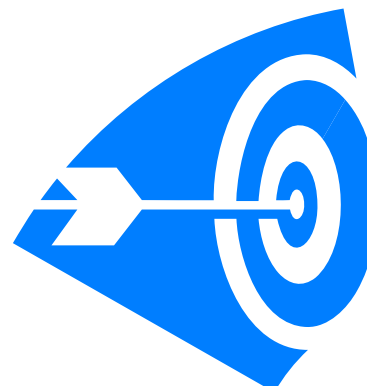
❖ **Communication**



❖ **Proposal for a Soil  
Framework Directive**

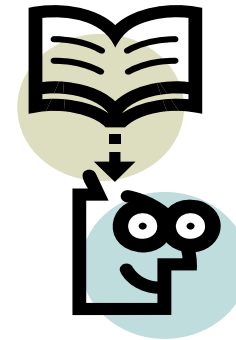


❖ **Impact Assessment**





❖ **Communication  
COM(2006)231**





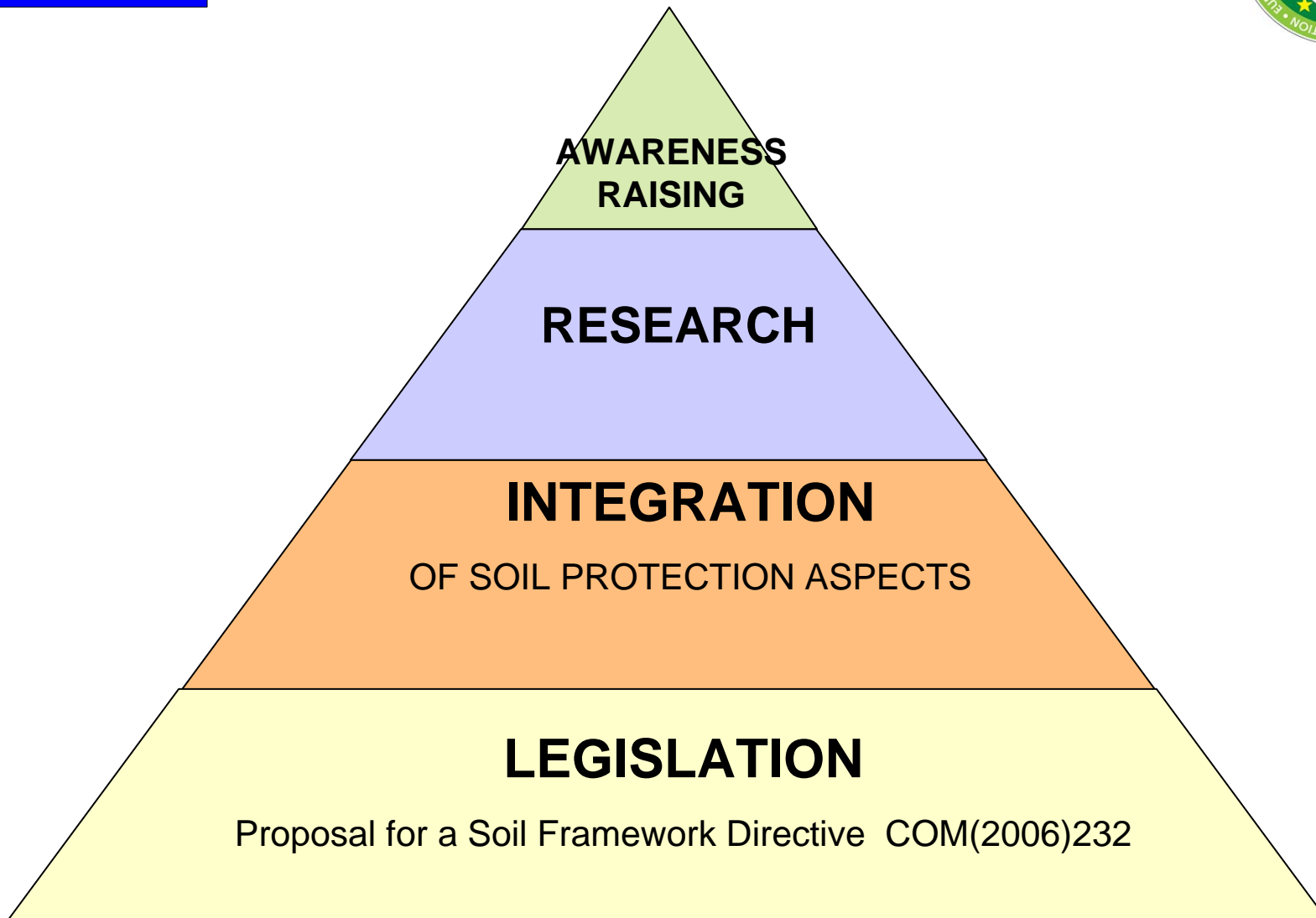
# COMMUNICATION



- ❖ It lays down the **objective** of soil policy: the protection of soil functions across the EU
- ❖ Sets out the **four pillars of action**
- ❖ It indicates the **next steps** at EU level

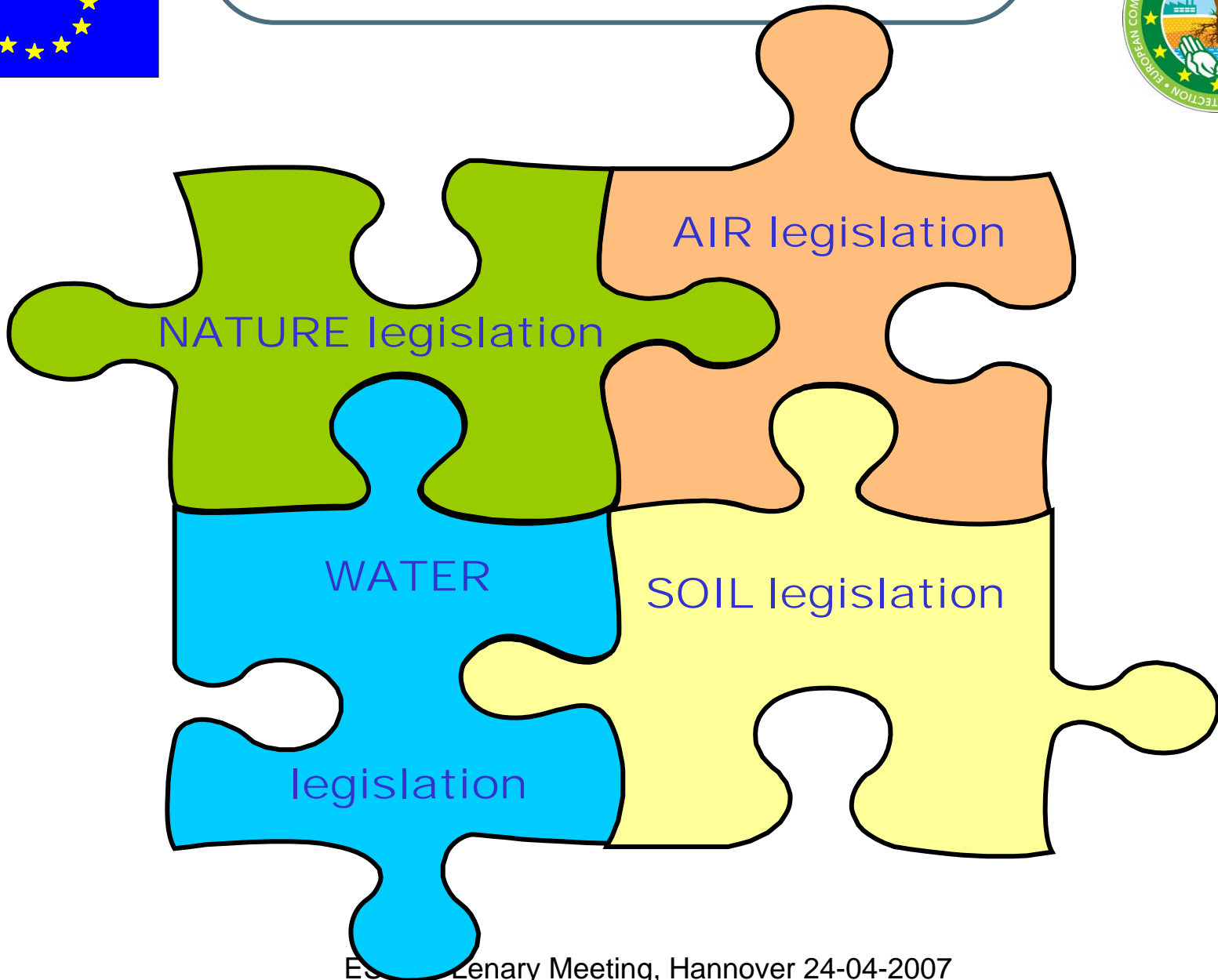


# FOUR PILLARS OF EU SOIL POLICY





# FILLING THE GAP





# ❖ Proposal for a Soil Framework Directive COM(2006)232







# SOIL THREATS ADDRESSED IN DIRECTIVE



**Sealing**



**Erosion**



**Organic matter decline**



**Compaction**



**Salinisation**



**Landslides**



**Contamination**



# STRUCTURE OF THE DIRECTIVE



**OBJECTIVE:** Protection soil functions-**Art. 1**

- Integration in sectoral policies-**Art. 3**
- Precautionary measures-**Art. 4**
- Prevention of contamination-**Art. 9**
- Measures to limit or mitigate sealing-**Art. 5**

- Identification of **risk areas** for erosion, organic matter decline, compaction, salinisation, landslides-5 years-**Articles 6, 7**
- Identification of **contaminated sites** - 25 years- **Artt. 10, 11, 12**

- Programmes of Measures-**Art. 8**
- National Remediation Strategy-**Artt. 13, 14**



# OBJECTIVES



Protection of soil - the preservation of SOIL FUNCTIONS:

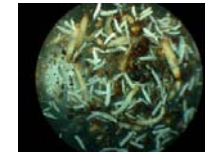
(a) biomass production, incl. agriculture & forestry;



(b) storing, filtering, transforming nutrients, substances, water;



(c) biodiversity pool, habitats, species and genes;



(d) physical and cultural environment for humans and human activities;



(e) source of raw materials;



(f) acting as carbon pool;

(g) archive of geological and archaeological heritage



Measures for the prevention and restoration of degraded soils



# PREVENTIVE OBLIGATIONS



## ❖ Integration

Identify and assess the impacts of **sectoral policies** likely to exacerbate or reduce soil degradation processes.

## ❖ Precautionary measures

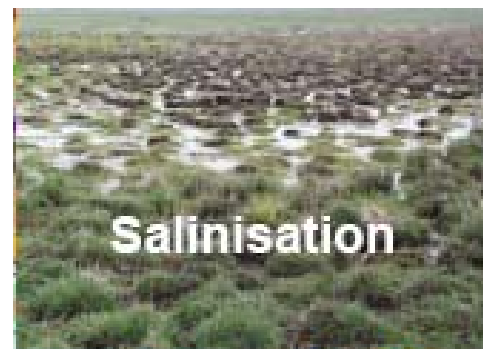
Obligation for land user to take precautions to **prevent** or **minimise** significant negative effects on soil functions.

## ❖ Sealing

Member States shall take appropriate measures **to limit** sealing **or**, where sealing is to be carried out, **to mitigate** its effects.

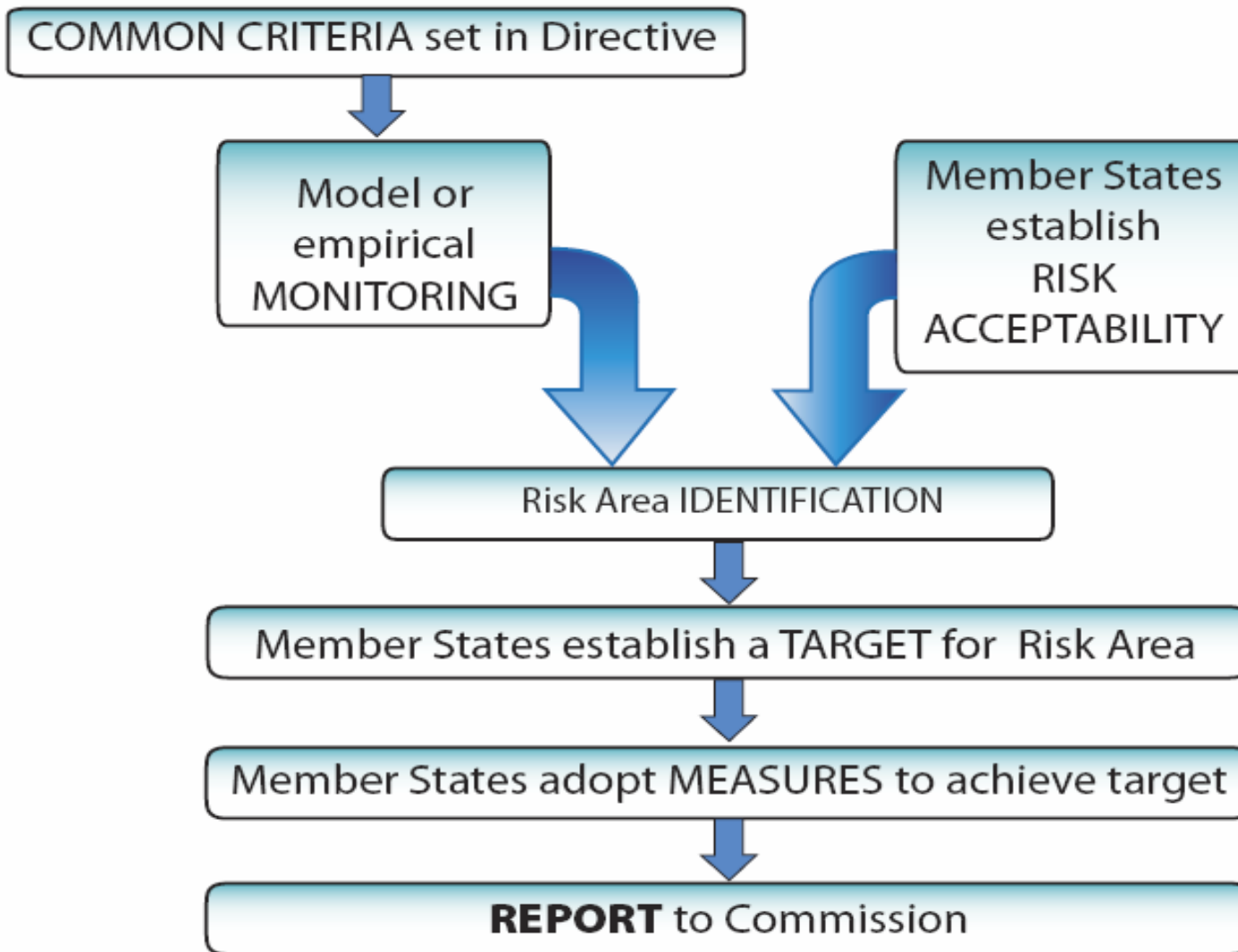


# “AGRICULTURAL” THREATS





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# “AGRICULTURAL” THREATS

## Articles 6 and 7



- ❖ Identification of **risk areas** at the appropriate level within five years from transposition
- ❖ Using the **common criteria** (e.g. soil type, texture, density, hydraulic properties, topography, land cover, land use, climate, etc.) listed in Annex I
- ❖ Taking into account the effects on **climate change** and **desertification**
- ❖ To be made **public** and **reviewed** every ten years



# “AGRICULTURAL” THREATS

## Article 8



❖ Application of **programmes of measures** within eight years from transposition and containing:

- risk reduction **targets**
- appropriate **measures** for reaching those targets
- a **timetable** for implementation
- estimate of allocation of private or public **funds**

❖ To be made **public and reviewed** every five years





# CONTAMINATION



**Definition of “contaminated site”:** a site where there is a **confirmed presence**, caused by **man**, of **dangerous substances** of such a level that Member States consider they pose a **significant risk** to human health or the environment. That risk shall be evaluated taking into account **current and approved future use** of the land



# PREVENTIVE OBLIGATION CONCERNING CONTAMINATION

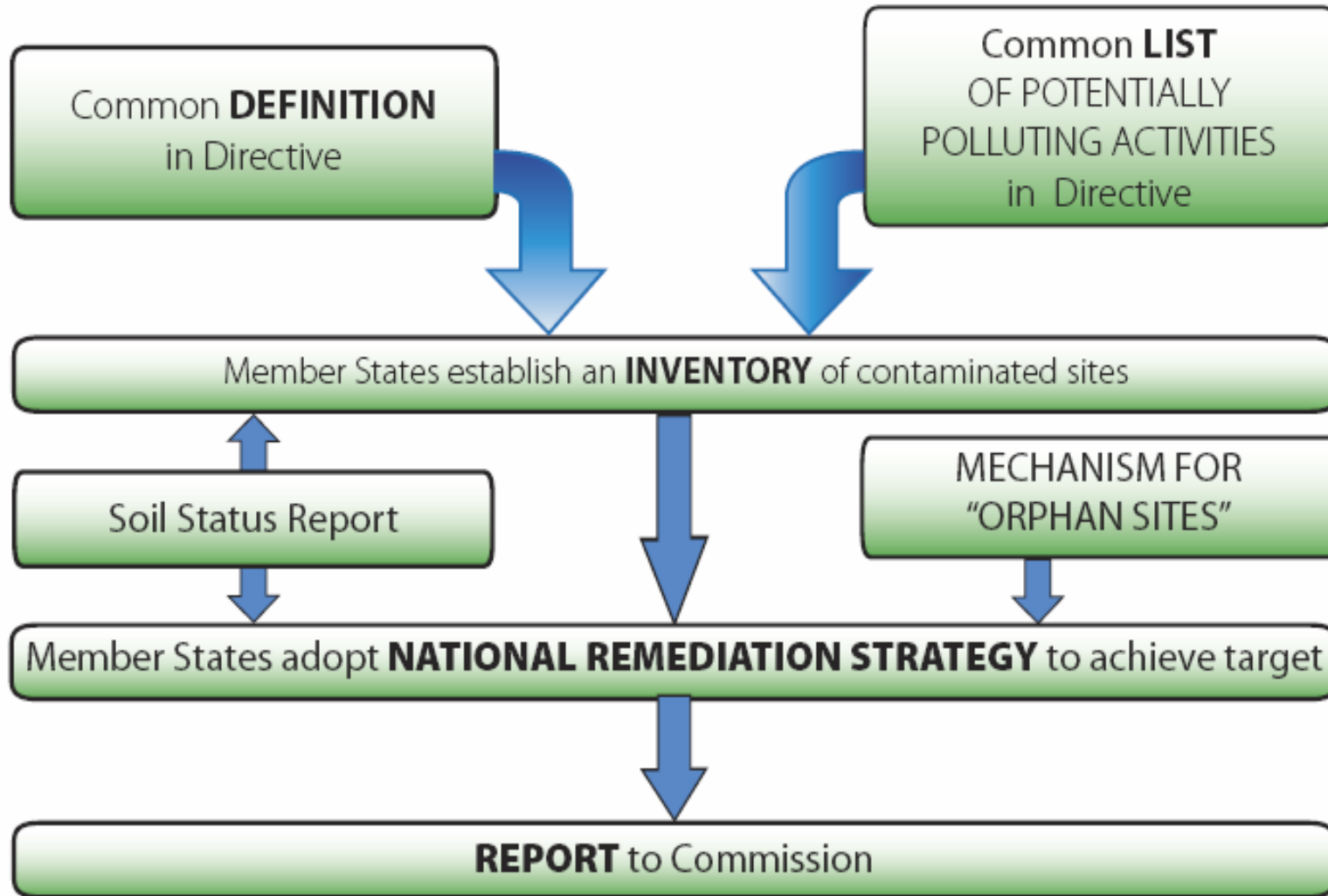


To **limit** the **(un)intentional** introduction of dangerous substances to **avoid accumulation** that would hamper **soil functions** or **cause significant risks** to human health or the environment

**Provision to be read in conjunction with other EU legislation**



# CONTAMINATION





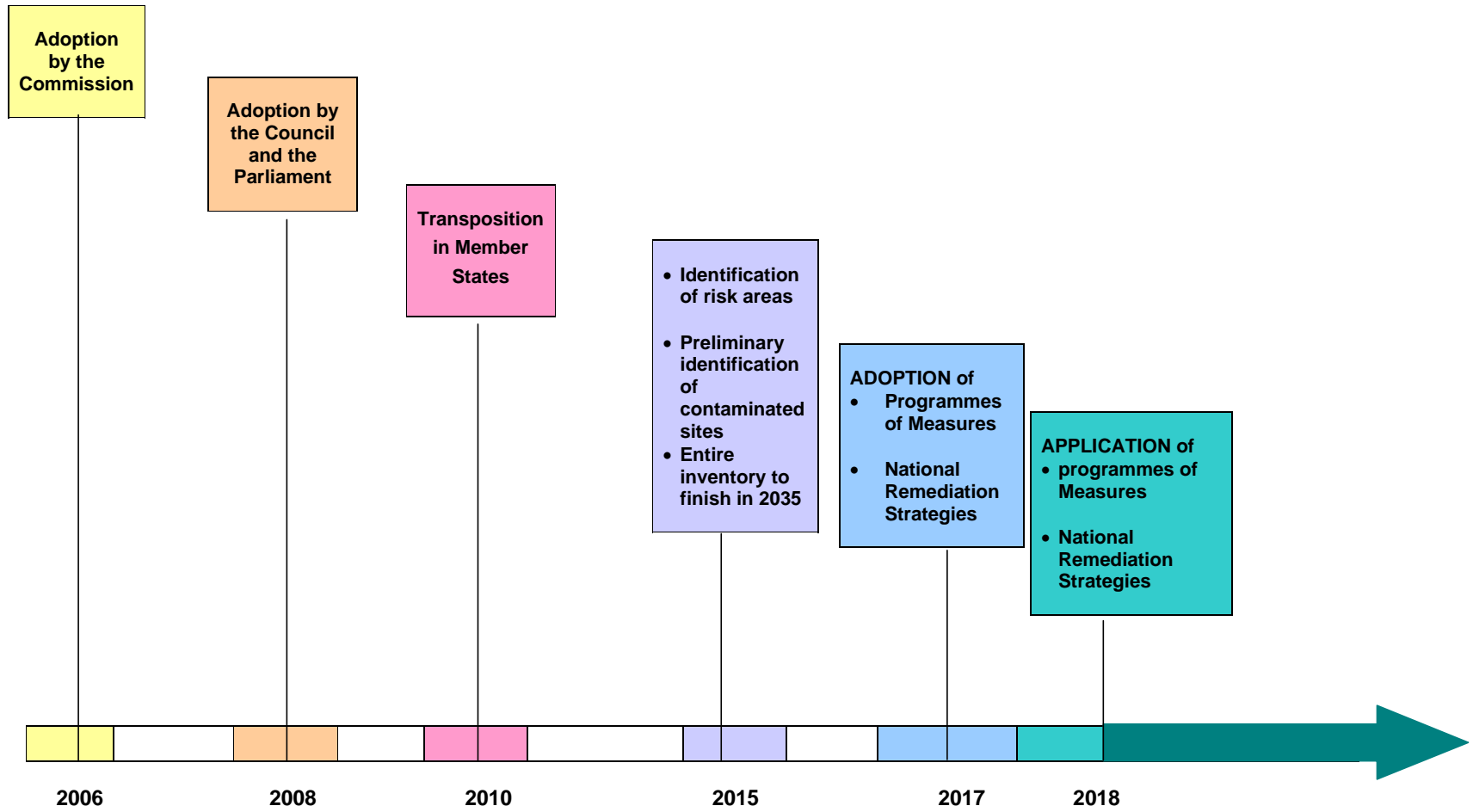
# NATIONAL REMEDIATION STRATEGY – Articles 13 and 14



- ❖ **Obligation to remediate contaminated sites: no deadline fixed**
  
- ❖ **Within seven years, draw up a National Remediation Strategy, including:**
  - **remediation targets**
  - **a prioritisation, starting with those sites which pose a significant risk to human health**
  - **a timetable for implementation**
  - **funds allocated**



# TENTATIVE TIMETABLE



Implementation of  
Programmes of Measures  
and  
National Remediation Strategies



# Where do we stand ?



## ❖ Some information on current discussions and opinions:

- **In Council**
- **In Parliament**
- **With Stakeholders**



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