



# The Soil Thematic Strategy and **Risk Area Identification**



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**European Commission**

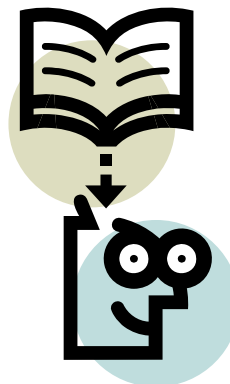
**DG Environment- Unit Agriculture, forests and soil**



# CONTENT OF THE THEMATIC STRATEGY



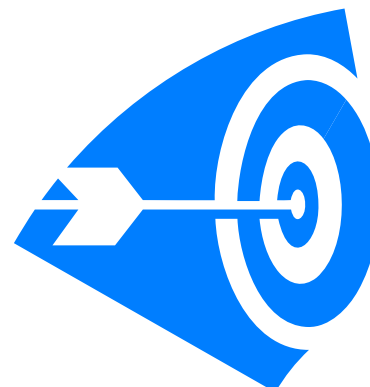
❖ **Communication**



❖ **Proposal for a Soil  
Framework Directive**

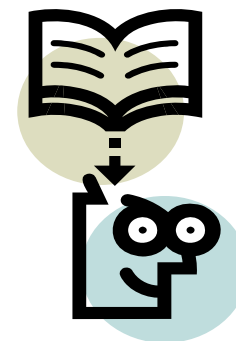


❖ **Impact Assessment**





❖ **Communication**  
**COM(2006)231**





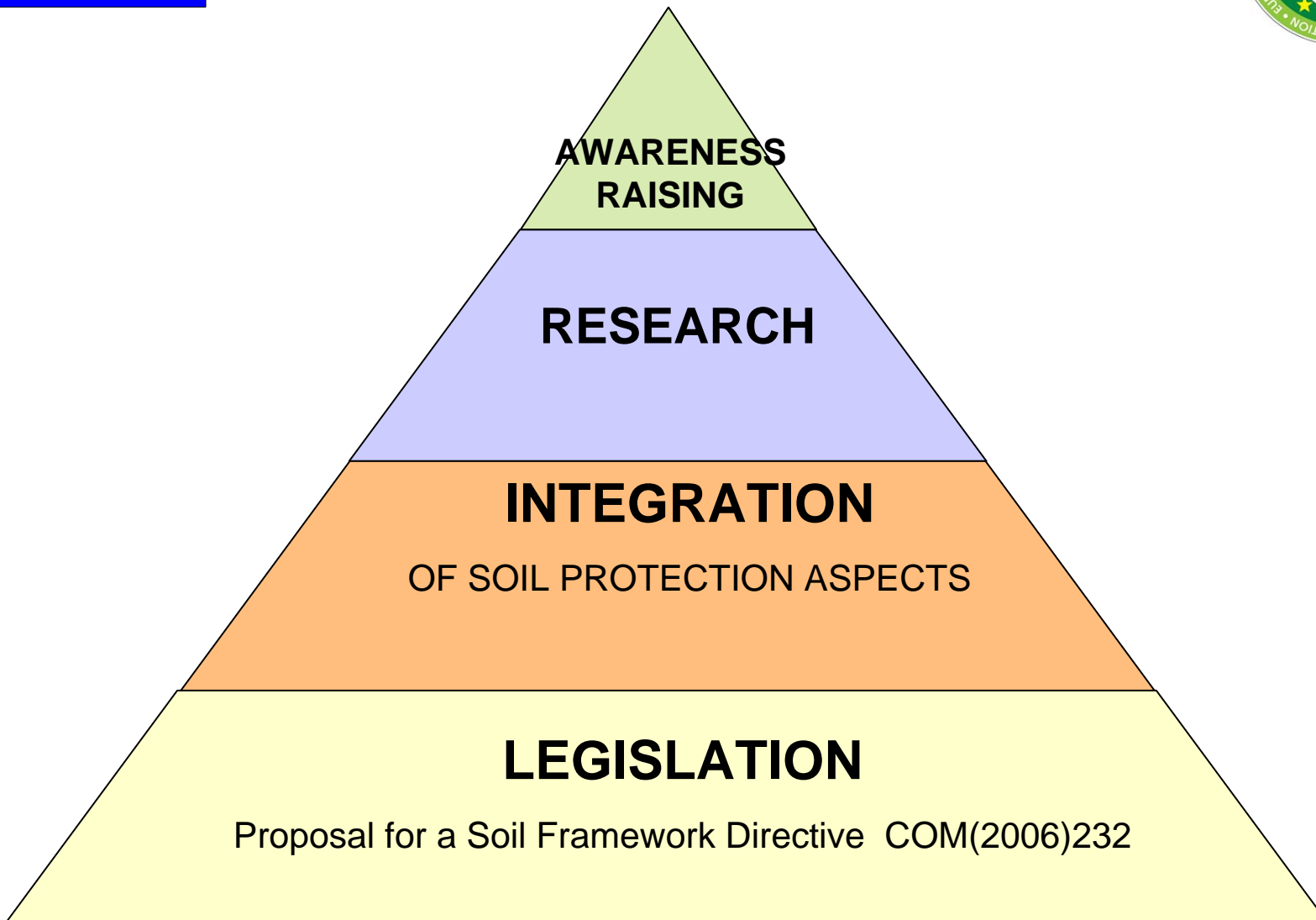
# COMMUNICATION



- ❖ 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

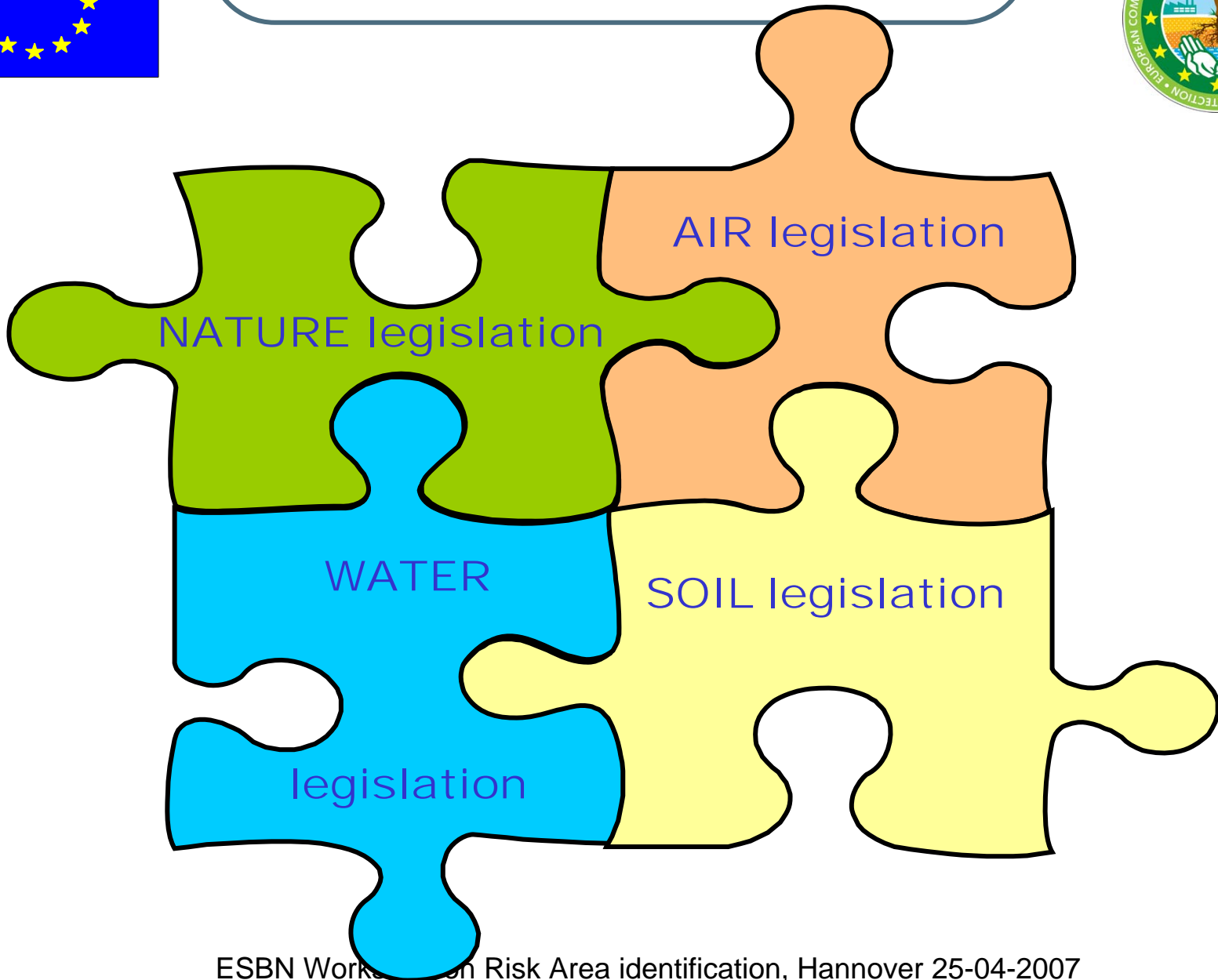


# FOUR PILLARS OF EU SOIL POLICY





# 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- **Art. 10, 11, 12**

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



# OBJECTIVES – Art. 1



Protection of soil - the preservation of SOIL FUNCTIONS:

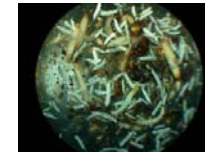
(a) biomass production, incl. agriculture & forestry;



(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

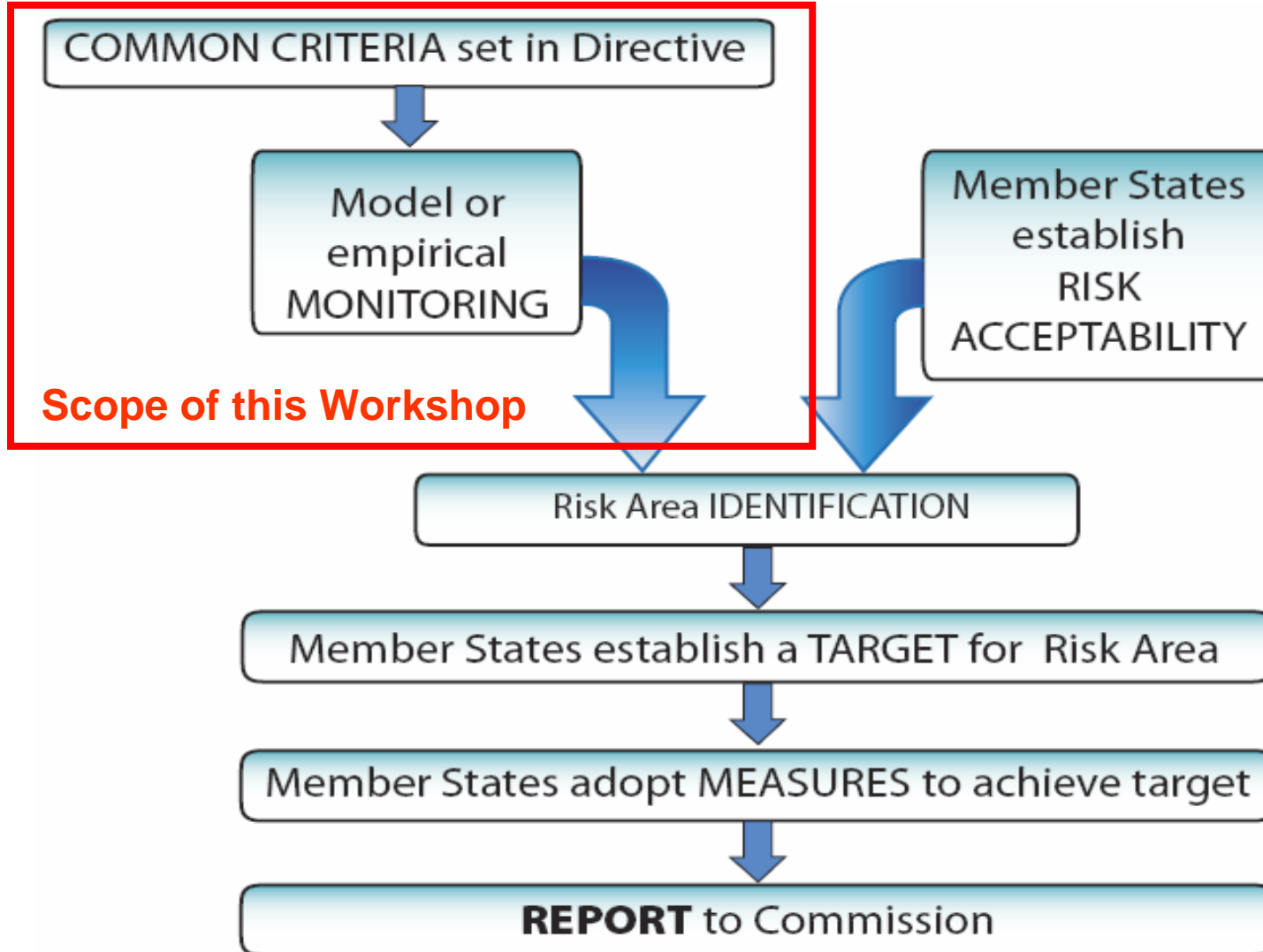


# “AGRICULTURAL” THREATS





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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**
- ❖ Using **empirical evidence or modelling.**
- ❖ To be made **public and reviewed** every ten years



# “AGRICULTURAL” THREATS

## Articles 6 and 7 - discussion



❖ In discussions so far: Many questions on the **scale** on which to identify risk areas:

❖ It is certainly not the intention that MS should identify risk areas at the plot level – we leave it to them, but what (technical) input can this workshop deliver as regards ‘**the appropriate level**’ given the criteria?

❖ New MS want to **include acidification** as a separate threat; so far the Commission has asked for further information.



# “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



## Platform for exchange of information/ Comitology



- ❖ **Platform** (Art. 17) specifically meant for exchange of information on **risk-area identification**
- ❖ **Between Members States and stakeholders**
- ❖ **Might** (Art. 18) lead to **adaptation of Annex 1** (and of risk assessment methodologies for contamination) through ‘comitology’





# Common Implementation Strategy

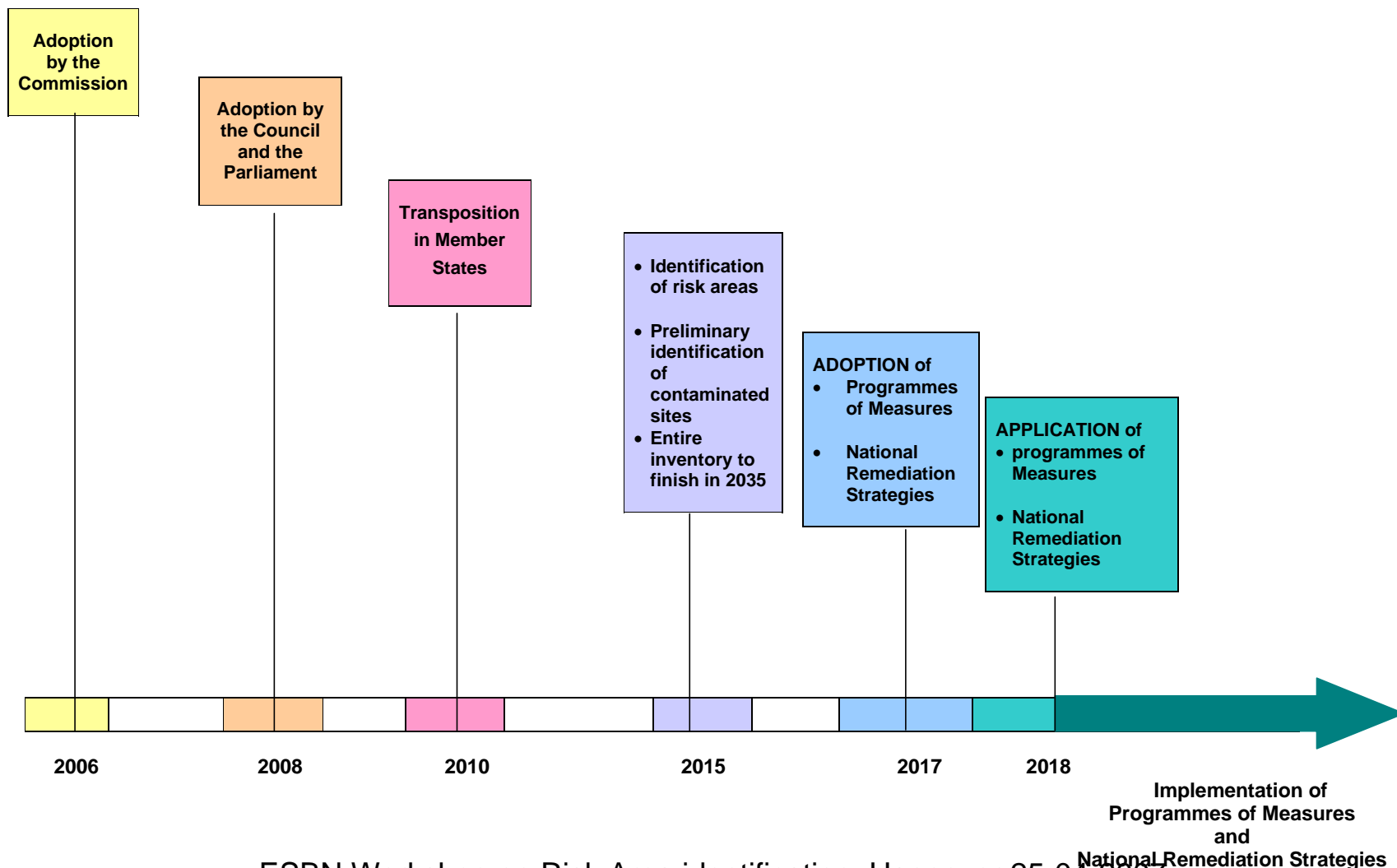


Commission will prepare a **Common Implementation Strategy** for the Directive and the other pillars of the strategy to:

- ❖ continue the **partnership with MS** and stakeholders
- ❖ initiate activities to **support MS** in identifying and developing the most cost-effective measures
- ❖ allow **better cooperation** between MS in reaching comparable approaches to soil protection



# TENTATIVE TIMETABLE





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