



EUROSOIL 2008

August 25-29, 2008

The Congress EUROSOIL 2008 was jointly organised by the soil science societies of Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland, under the umbrella of ECSSS and the chairmanship of Prof. Winfried E.H. Blum, at the Technical University Vienna /Austria.

About 1500 scientists from 77 countries participated with approx. 650 oral and 750 poster presentations, organised within 30 symposia and 13 workshops. Moreover, 3 technical excursions took place.



Amongst the 13 Workshops, two were related to ESNB activities:

W1: "International and EU soil politics", organized by P. Bielek (SVK) and W.E.H. Blum (A)

W4: "Soil quality", organized by L. Montanarella (EU-JRC, I) and G. Toth (EU-JRC, I).



26 presidents of European national soil science societies or their representatives participated in the Council Meeting of ECSSS, with the main outcome: The next venue for EUROSOIL 2012 will be Bari/Italy.

The next President and Vice-President of ECSSS will be Prof.Dr. Nicola Senesi, from the University of Bari as President and Prof. Teodoro Miano, from the same University, as Vice-President. Congratulations to both!



For EUROSOIL 2016, the Polish Soil Science Society presented its bid for the city of Olsztin, in Masuria, in the north-east of Poland, in the vicinity of the Baltic States, Belarus and the Ukraine.



The 10 best posters were awarded a prize from the organisers (diploma and 200 €). An additional prize was provided by the international journal "Biology and Fertility of Soils" (Springer), providing a free copy of this journal to the winner and free electronic access to further journals by Springer.



A motion in support of the European Framework Directive for Soil Protection, prepared by the French Soil Science Society, was unanimously accepted by the Council of ECSSS and unanimously backed by the participants of the Congress at the Closing Ceremony:

**Motion to support the
EU FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE
ON SOILS**

Soil is a vital, non-renewable resource, providing essential goods and services to human-life and ecosystems. For instance, soil plays a major role in climate change, food, fiber and energy supply, water regulation, biodiversity, and human health. Therefore, it is essential to maintain and preserve the soil functions for the sustainable development of our societies.

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Long-term soil sustainability is endangered by numerous threats that have been listed in the proposal of a European directive for soil protection. The over 1500 participants of the EUROSIL congress held in Vienna (August 25-29, 2008), soil scientists from 77 countries, including the representatives of the 43 European national soil science societies, consider that a unique legal and political framework for soil protection is an absolute necessity to preserve soil resource at the European level.

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We therefore urge the French Presidency to resume the discussions aiming to reach a political agreement in the Environmental Council on 20 October. We request the 5 Member States that could not agree with the Portuguese Compromise text on 20 December 2007 to reconsider their position for the sake of preserving this precious natural resource.

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