



Soil Monitoring Law proposal

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ENV.D1 Land Use & Management

European Green Deal (°11/12/2019)



EU Biodiversity Strategy
(°20/05/2020)



EU Soil Strategy
(°17/11/2021)



Proposal Soil Monitoring Law
(°05/07/2023)

| EU Soil Strategy for 2030

“The Commission will table a dedicated legislative proposal on soil health by 2023 which will enable the objectives of this strategy to be met and good soil health to be achieved across the EU by 2050. Such a legislative initiative will fulfil better regulation requirements, be based on a thorough impact assessment, including a subsidiarity check, and fully respect the competences of Member States in this matter.”



| Process

- EU soil expert group since 2015
- EU Soil Strategy: 17/11/2021
- Call for evidence: 16/02/2022 – 16/03/2022 (189 replies)
- Public consultation: 01/08/2022 – 24/10/2022 (5.782 replies)
- Regulatory scrutiny board opinions: 17/02/2023 & 28/04/2023
- Numerous stakeholder interactions, dedicated meetings, interviews, events, etc.






European Parliament resolution on soil protection



ENVI Committee Press  @EP_Environment · Apr 28



#EPlenary adopts @EP_Environment resolution with 605  55  41 
calling on the @EU_Commission to design an EU-wide common legal framework for the protection & sustainable use of soil

Press release 



MEPs call for EU common legal framework for the ...
Parliament calls on the Commission to design an EU-wide common legal framework for the protection ...
europarl.europa.eu

Why do we need to act?

60-70%
of soils are not
healthy

13%
of EU soils
suffer from high
erosion with
1.25 bEUR
yearly losses in
crop yield

78%
of land take
takes place in
agricultural
land

200 – 800 k
deaths globally
per year due to
soil
contamination

**7.4 million
tonnes**
of CO₂
lost yearly by
mineral soils
under cropland

390.000
contaminated
sites to be
remediated

25%
of land in Southern,
central and Eastern
Europe at high or
very high risk of
desertification

Erosion, compaction, organic matter decline, pollution, loss of soil biodiversity, acidification, salinization, excess nutrients, desertification, land take and sealing





“ Today, we are filling a major legal gap to bring soil under our legal acquis. This will become the first EU law on soil. Our ultimate objective is to achieve healthy soils by 2050. “



**SUSTAINABLE USE OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**



European Commission
Commission européenne



Commission européenne
European Commission





Scope of the proposal

- Directive allows flexible and proportionate intervention
- All soils in the territory of Member States
- Staged approach
- Building on existing policies

Soil Monitoring Law

Directive on soil monitoring and resilience

01

Objectives

Healthy soils
by 2050



02

Definitions

Including criteria for
healthy soil



03

Monitoring & assessment

Descriptors, measurements,
methodologies



04

Services & support

Certification and data support



05

Sustainable soil management

Principles and land
take mitigation



06

Contaminated sites

Identification, investigation, risk
assessment, management,
registration



07

Reporting

Informing the public
and evaluation





Objectives

- Solid and coherent soil monitoring framework
- Healthy soils by 2050
- Providing ecosystem services
- Environment, social and economic needs
- Climate change, biodiversity, resilience against natural disasters, food security, human health



Definitions

- Healthy soils: several soil descriptors with or without criteria
- One out all out principle
- Land take
- Specific terminology defined in article 3 and throughout the legal text



Monitoring & assessment

- Soil districts & competent authorities
- Soil health descriptors and criteria
- Methodologies for sample survey and analysis of descriptors
- Regular monitoring and assessment



Services & support

- Land Use/Cover Area frame Survey (LUCAS)
- Remote sensing through Copernicus
- Digital soil health data portal
- Voluntary soil health certification



Sustainable soil management

- Basic principles for:
 - Sustainable soil management practices
 - Regeneration practices
- Synergies with other EU plans and programmes
- Public participation
- Advice, training, capacity building, awareness
- Land take mitigation principles



Contaminated sites

- Risk-based approach
- Identification and investigation of potentially contaminated sites
- Risk assessment of contaminated sites
- Risk reduction measures for sites with unacceptable risks
- Public register and public involvement



Reporting & final provisions

- Regular electronic reporting
- Transparency
- Evaluation and review
- Committee
- Access to justice and penalties
- Transposition

Timeline for implementation

Entry into force	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5	+6	+7	+8	+9	+10	+11
Transposition	█	█★									
Establishing soil districts and appoint authorities	█	█★									
Establishing digital soil health data portal (COM and EEA)	█	█★									
Soil health certification scheme	█	█★									
First soil measurements (including LUCAS)	█	█	█	█★							
First soil health assessment					★						
First reporting to the Commission and EEA						★					
Establishing a register (potentially) contaminated sites	█	█	█	█★							
Establishing a risk-based approach	█	█	█	█★							
Identifying potentially contaminated sites	█	█	█	█	█	█	█★				
Investigating potentially contaminated sites	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	...
Managing contaminated sites	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	...
Defining SSM and regeneration practices	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	...
Evaluation of the Directive						★					
Second soil measurements					█	█	█	█	█★		
Second soil health assessment										★	
Second reporting to the Commission and EEA											★



Proposes legislation



European Parliament



Council of the
European Union



Adopt legislation by co-decision

Thank you! Questions?

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