



Proposal for a Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience (Soil Monitoring Law)

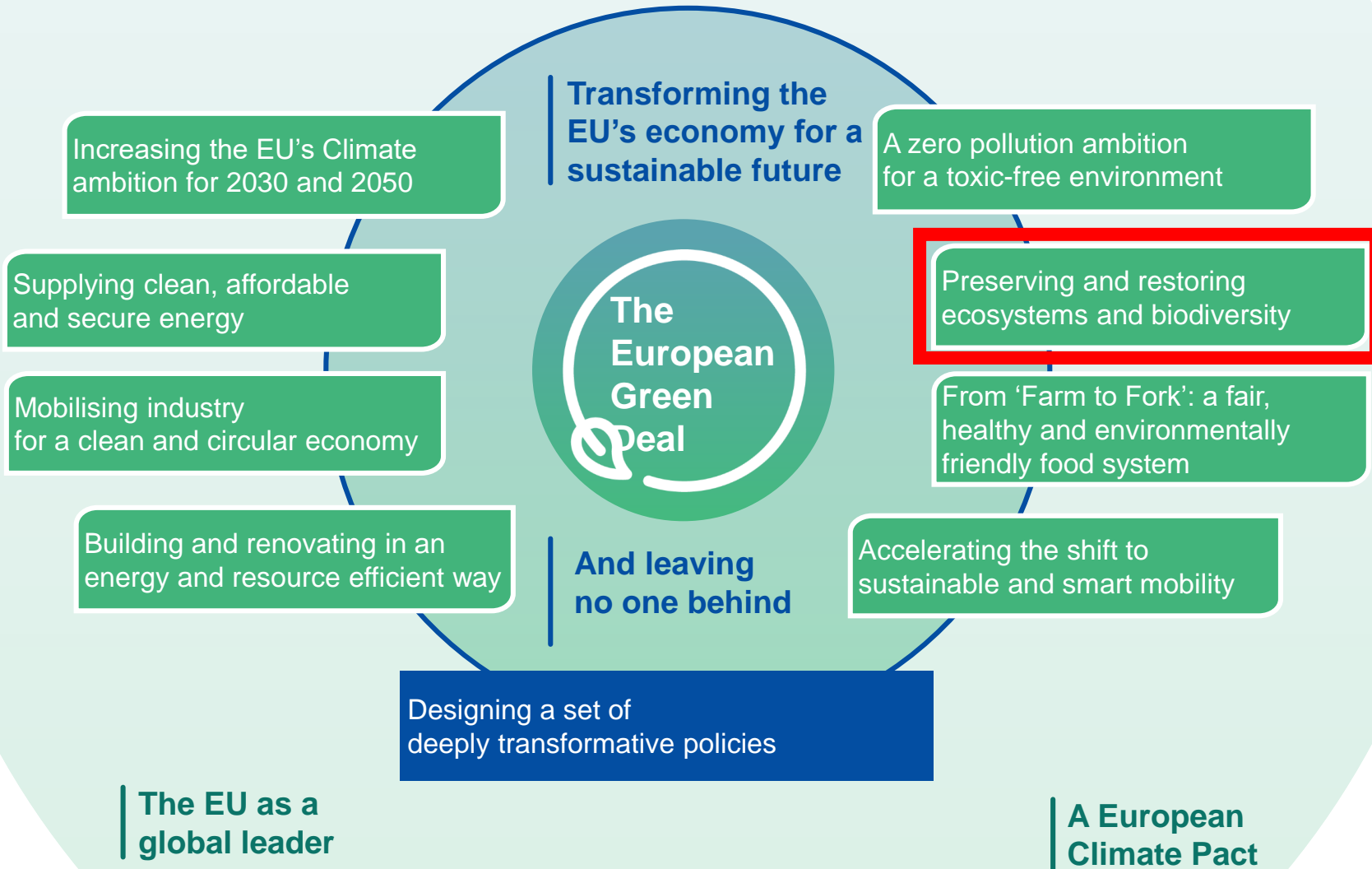
DG Environment
D1 Land Use & Management

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https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/soil-and-land_en

European Green Deal (°11/12/2019)



EU Biodiversity Strategy
(°20/05/2020)



EU Soil Strategy
(°17/11/2021)

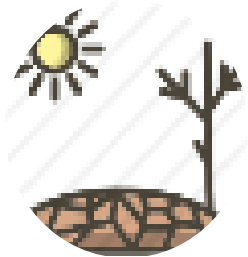


Proposal Soil Monitoring Law
(°05/07/2023)

Healthy soils for achieving the EGD objectives:



climate change mitigation and adaptation
and biodiversity



prevention and mitigation of the impacts of **natural disasters**
and the **drought resilience**



the EU's **long term capacity** to produce
sufficient, safe and nutritious food



the **health** of EU citizens



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



The commitment in the EU Soil Strategy

The EU soil strategy aims to ensure that, by 2050

- all EU **soil ecosystems are healthy and more resilient** and can therefore **continue to provide their crucial services**
- there is no net land take and soil pollution is reduced to levels that are no longer harmful to people's health or ecosystems
- protecting soils, **managing them sustainably and restoring degraded soils is a common standard**

Key action:

- tabling a legislative proposal on soil health by 2023 to achieve good soil health by 2050

Process

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)

Other consultation activities:

- EU soil expert group meetings: [old](#) & [new](#) composition
- Interviews
- Targeted questionnaire

Regulatory scrutiny board opinions: 17/02/2023 & 28/04/2023

Adoption of the proposal 05/07/2023

SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES



“ 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. “





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 and 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



Proposes legislation



European Parliament



Council of the
European Union



Adopt legislation by co-decision

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 | | | | | | | | | | | ★ |