

SOIL PROTECTION BY EUROPEAN SOIL POLICY

by

Pavol Bielek

Soil Science and Conservation

Research Institute, Bratislava

16th Expert Meeting on Soil Conservation of
Danube Countries, March 19 – 20, 2009, St. Pölten

SOIL PROTECTION MILESTONES

1907: Establishment of the Icelandic Soil Conservation Service

1936: Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act

- Establishment of US Soil Conservation Service
- Establishment of local partnerships
- Monitoring of results

1956: Czechoslovakian Soil Protection Act

1987: Dutch Soil Protection Act

1989: Italian Soil Protection Act

1993: French National Soil Remediation and Clean-up Policy

1998: Federal German Soil Protection Act

2004: Soil Action Plan of England and Wales

2008: US Senate Resolution No 440 recognizing soil as an essential natural resource, and soils professionals as playing a critical role in managing our Nation's soil resources

EU History of Soil Protection Policy

- 1955: Working party On Soil Classification and Survey (FAO)
- 1959: Soil Map of Europe (first draft 1: 2,5 mil.)
- 1972: European Soil Charter adopted by Council of Europe
- 1985: Soil Map at 1: 1 000 000 scale (EC)
- 1986: Digital version of EC Soil Map
- 1994: Creation of the Soil Information Focal Point at JRC (Ispra)
- 1996: Creation of the European Soil Bureau at JRC

- 1998: Workshop on Soil Protection Policies Bonn, Germany
- 1999: First European Soil Forum, Berlin
- 2001: Second European Soil Forum, Napoli
- 2002: 6th Environment Action Programme including a strategy for soil protection
- 2002: Communication „Towards a Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection
- 2003: Revised European Charter for Protection and Sustainable Management of Soil (Council of Europe)
- 2006: Soil Thematic Strategy adopted by the European Commission
 - Communication
 - Directive
 - Impact assessment

WHY WE STILL NEED TO SPEAK TO SOIL POLITICS

because

INSPITE OF

- good scientific and expert backgrounds
- adopted international documents
- created national soil policies
- accepted international legal frameworks
- implemented national legal frameworks

SOIL IS NOT PROTECTED SUFFICIENTLY

DEFICITS ON SCIENTIFIC AND EXPERT LEVELS

- Concept of soil multifunctionality is not quantified completely
 - missing impacts on social climate, rural development economy, etc.

- we need a new dimensions of multifunctionality
 - multifunctionality of soil contents (water, air)
 - multifunctionality of soil status (dryland, wetland)
 - multifunctionality of soil use
- not enough presentations on soil multifunctionality

- missing of arguments for essential functions of soil in
 - ecosystem regulations
 - quality of environment
 - stability of nature
- no presented (sufficiently) of soil relationships to
 - health
 - quality of life
 - living standards, ...

Proposal for

**DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL
ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR THE
PROTECTION OF SOIL**

PROCESS IS CONTINUING UNDER
CZECH REPUBLIC PRESIDENCY

STILL IS NO CLEAR THE RESULT
BECAUSE COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN
AGAINST DID NOT CHANGED THEIR
NEGATIVE POSITION

THANK YOU



VÝSKUM PODY
STREŽBY ÚSTAV PODZNALETKU
& OCHRANY PODY

pavol.bielek@vupop.sk