

**Conference**  
**Climate change – can soil make a difference?**  
**Brussels, Thursday 12th June 2008**

**Draft Programme – Status: 22nd April 2008**

8.00 **Registration desk opens**

9.00 Welcome and Introduction by Chair

*Mr Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Bonn, Germany*

***Key note address***

9.15 Why is soil organic matter so important?

*Mr Stavros Dimas, Environment Commissioner, European Commission*

***First session***

***Soil – the biggest terrestrial carbon pool***

9.30 The projected effects of climate change in Europe

*Professor Jean-Pascal van Ypersele, Vice-Chair of WG II "Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability" of IPCC, Professor at the Institut d'Astronomie et de Géophysique "Georges Lemaître", UCL, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium*

10.00 The role of soil organic matter in the global carbon cycle

*Professor Rattan Lal, Ohio University, Carbon Management and Sequestration Center, Columbus, Ohio, USA*

10.30 Questions and answers

11.00 Coffee break

***Second session***

***The evolution of soil carbon stocks***

11.30 UK losses of soil carbon – due to climate change?

*Professor Pat H. Bellamy, National Soil Resources Institute, Cranfield University, United Kingdom*

11.45 Emissions from peat soils

*Dr Jari Liski, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), Research Programme for Global Change, Helsinki, Finland*

12.00 Changes in soil organic matter in relation with land use and agricultural practices

*Dr Dominique Arrouays, Directeur Unité Infosol, INRA, Orléans, France*

12.15 Emissions due to land use changes in Brazil

*Professor Carlos C. Cerri, CENA-USP, Laboratório de Biogeoquímica Ambiental, Piracicaba, Brazil*

12.30 Questions and answers

13.00 Break for lunch

***Third session***

***How to ensure that soil is part of the solution to climate change?***

14.30 The role of agricultural practices in keeping or increasing soil organic matter  
*Professor Peter Smith, Lead Author of the IPCC Good Practice Guidelines 2006, Professor of Soils and Global Change, University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom*

15.00 Evaluation of the potential of selected measures to reduce carbon emissions and sequester carbon in European soils  
*Dr Annette Freibauer, Co-ordinator of the EU CarboEurope-Integrated Project, Max-Planck-Institute for Biogeochemistry, Jena, Germany*

15.30 Questions and answers

16.00 Coffee break

***Fourth session***

16.30 ***Panel discussion on the policy implications***

Moderator:

*Mr Grant Lawrence, Director in the Environment Directorate-General of the European Commission, Brussels*

Participants (only confirmed participants are mentioned):

- *Mrs Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines, Rapporteur on the proposal for a Soil Framework Directive, Environment Committee, European Parliament, Brussels*
- *Mr Staffan Nilsson, Rapporteur on soil, European Economic and Social Committee, Brussels*
- *Mr Janez Podobnik, Minister of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia*
- *Ms Þórunn Sveinbjarnardóttir, Minister for the Environment, Iceland*

***Closing remarks***

18.00 *Mr Stavros Dimas, Environment Commissioner, European Commission*

18.15 **End of conference**

18.15- **Cocktail reception**

19.45