

***COMMON FORUM on Contaminated land in the  
European Union 24&25 April 2007 Stuttgart***

*Meeting agenda and information*



April 17, 2007

Dr. Joop J. Vegter

# COMMON FORUM ON CONTAMINATED LAND

Stuttgart– 24/25 April 2007

Meeting location: Hotel Mercure Stuttgart Bad Cannstat

**\*Monday 23 April: 19.00 : Informal get together, offered by the German Environment Ministry, in local Wine Cellar ( 100 meter distance from the Hotel Mercure Stuttgart Bad Cannstat)\***

## Agenda

### Tuesday 24 April 2007

<b>Session 1</b> <i>(10:00-11:30)</i>	<b>WELCOME AND GENERAL MATTERS</b>	
10:00	Welcome and Short information about the meeting	Joop Vegter
10:10	News and views from the COMMON FORUM, tour the table: “your expectations and experiences in COMMON FORUM”	All members
<b>Session 2</b> <i>(11:00 –13:00)</i>	<b>POLICY DEVELOPMENTS</b>	
11:00	Presentation on the new French policy for contaminated land management	Jean-Luc Perrin
11:20	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>	
11:40	The waste framework directive and contaminated soil (excavated & unexcavated)	Victor Dries
<b>Session 3</b> <i>(12:00 –13:00)</i>	<b>STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED EU SOIL DIREVTIVE</b>	
12:10	Introduction to the afternoon group discussions about contaminated land in the proposed SFD	Joop Vegter
12:30	<i>Lunch</i>	
13:30	Group discussions	
15:30	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>	
16:00	Reports of the groups	
16:45	Plenary conclusions	
<b>Session 4</b> <i>(17:00-17:30)</i>	<b>CLOSING SESSION</b>	
17:00	Any other business, next meetings, Closure of the meeting	
17:30	End of the meeting	
<b>19:30</b>	<b>Reception in the town hall offered by the Lord Mayor of Stuttgart</b>	

**Wednesday 25 April 2006 at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference on Managing Urban Land, Theaterhaus Stuttgart. The session will take place in the Glashaus venue**

<b>Session 5</b> <i>(14:00 –15: 45)</i>	<b>COMMON FORUM - URBAN SOIL INITIATIVE</b>	
14:00	Setting the scene – a short introductory keynote	Dr. Joop Vegter
14:10	Urban soil ecology , scientific perspectives I	Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Burghardt, University of Essen)
14:35	Urban soils, scientific perspectives II	Dr. Stefan Norra, Institut für Mineralogie und Geochemie, University of Karlsruhe
15:00	Lessons learned from the Interreg IIIB Alpine Space Project TUSEC-IP "Technique of Urban Soil Evaluation in City Regions – Implementation in Planning Procedures".	Dipl-Ing. Martin Schamann ,UBA-Vienna.
15:25	Plenary discussion	Joop Vegter
<b>15:45</b>	<b>End of the session</b>	

## **Additional information about the meeting agenda**

### ***SESSION 1J: WELCOME & GENERAL MATTERS***

After the opening and welcome we will have a Tour the Table. Every participant will have a 2-3 minute time slot to introduce him/herself and to make a short statement about her/his expectations and experiences in COMMON FORUM. As you may know the COMMON FORUM secretariat is financed as an international project for three years, starting from August 2005. As we are halfway the time of the project it is time to start to think about the future of COMMON FORUM and to evaluate it's functioning up till now. Your remarks will be used to prepare a document about the future of COMMON FORUM, to be discussed in the next meeting in September

### ***SESSION 2J: POLICY DEVELOPMENTS***

Although the proposal for the EU Soil Framework Directive dominates the agenda of COMMON FORUM it is important not to loose track of interesting developments in national approaches. The presentation by Jean-Luc Perrin on the new French policy for contaminated land management will highlite some interesting recent changes. Another issue not directly related to the Soil Framework Directive is the regulation for contaminated soil (excavated or unexcavated) in the EU Waste Framework Directive. This discussion will be introduced by Victor Dries. If necessary we can decide to take action as COMMON FORUM and try to influence this EU discussion in the right direction.

### ***SESSION 3J: STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED EU SOIL DIRECTIVE***

The COMMON FORUM agenda committee proposed to prepare a document with short statements about the contaminated land part of the proposed Soil Framework Directive (SFD). The document is not intended to become a common position paper, but is intended to help those of us who have to prepare national positions to choose the best arguments to suit their needs and to be aware of arguments that may be used by others. A second draft of this document has been sent to you yesterday. It is important that you bring the paper and your further comments and suggestions to the meeting. Most of the issues raised in the paper concern articles 10 till 14 of the directive we will devote the group discussions to those. Other comments can be briefly discussed after the plenary introduction and the plenary concluding discussion. We will decide how to proceed with the discussion paper at the end of this session.

### ***SESSION 4J: CLOSING SESSION***

The next meeting will take place in Stockholm annex to the ICCL ( International Committee on Contaminated Land) meeting. Concerning the agenda, some issues can be discussed jointly with ICCL but some issues are strictly COMMON FORUM, like the "midterm review and future of COMMON FORUM" paper.

There is also a request from the SNOWMAN project (a coordinated European research program funded by national research funding agencies) to present their work and to hear our opinions. Further ideas for the meetings in Stockholm, ICCL and COMMOM FORUM are welcome.

## **SESSION 5: COMMON FORUM URBAN SOIL INITIATIVE ( at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference on Managing Urban Land)**

Many scenario studies for land use in Europe predict an enormous expansion of urban areas in the next decades. Sealing of soils due to constructions and infrastructure has been identified as one of the most important threats to soil in the Thematic strategy for soil protection in the European union. There is a need for European member states to diminish sealing and to use land resources more efficiently. This can be done by redeveloping old industrial areas and other derelict land – the so-called brownfields- instead of using more greenfields for urban expansion. But brownfield redevelopment on its own can only slightly diminish the consumption of green land. The general trend is that urban land will increase. This leads to several important questions. First of all whether the large cities of tomorrow will be healthier than the cities of the past. Several projects are now studying on how to make urban environments more attractive and ecologically sound but they mainly address above ground aspects or are addressing specific regions . The importance of ecological functions and services of soils in urban systems is not yet fully recognized. In any case complete sealing of soils in large urban areas should be avoided, because the filter and buffer capacity and the biodegradation potential of urban soils may need to be exploited to the full in future.

Most knowledge about soils (and sediments) comes from natural soils or from agricultural soils. Urban soils are quite different and deserve special attention in view of the ecological services they can provide for a sustainable urban environment and their capacity to cope with contamination through biodegradation and long-term adsorption. This will contribute to ecological and human health in the urban environment and will help to prevent further spreading of contaminants into groundwater and surface waters. A dedicated research program on all ecological aspects of urban soil seems necessary, involving classification of urban soils, investigation of specific properties and their potential to perform ecological services.

Those involved in soil remediation and brownfield redevelopment already discovered the use of some these ecological services by noting that the soil itself has properties that contribute to risk reduction by biodegradation (monitored natural attenuation) or by acting as a barrier for the spread of contamination. It is necessary to expand this knowledge to achieve ecologically sound urban environments and also to answer the questions how properly designed urban systems can make up for the loss of ecological services of the green land that is consumed for urbanization.