

***COMMON FORUM on Contaminated land in the
European Union 28 & 29 February 2008 Rotterdam***

Meeting agenda and information



7 February, 2008

Dr. Joop J. Vegter

COMMON FORUM ON CONTAMINATED LAND

Rotterdam – 28 & 29 February 2008

Meeting location: Bilderberg Park Hotel

- ***Wednesday evening February 27 get-together at 18h30 at Bilderberg Park Hotel Rotterdam***

Agenda

Thursday 28 February 2008

Session 1 <i>(10:00-11:00)</i>	WELCOME AND GENERAL MATTERS	
10:00	Welcome and information about the meeting	Joop Vegter
10:10	Introduction of the delegates (short “tour de table”)	All
10:30	“A new soil remediation policy: a combination of a site specific and a collective regional approach” Keynote by a representative of the NL Ministry of Environment (VROM)	
<i>11:00</i>	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>	
Session 2 <i>(11:30 –13:00)</i>	HOW TO IMPROVE COOPERATION IN EU MEMBERSTATES part I	
11:30	Presentation from Tsjechia	Pavla Kacabova
11.55	Presentation from Lithuania	Kestutis Kadunas
12.20	Presentation from Romania	Nicolae Heredea
12:45	Introduction of the afternoon program	Joop Vegter
<i>13:00</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	
Session 2 <i>(14:00 -16:00)</i>	HOW TO IMPROVE COOPERATION IN EU MEMBERSTATES part II	
14:00	Group discussions	Joop Vegter
<i>15:00</i>	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>	
15:30	Introduction to field trip by a representative of the “Rotterdam port and industry complex”	
<i>16:00</i>	<i>Field trip, followed by joint dinner</i>	
<i>18:30-23:00</i>	<i>Drinks and Buffet Dinner at the Euromast tower</i>	

Friday 29 February 2008

09:00	Brief reports of group discussions and plenary conclusions	
Session 3 <i>(9:30 – 11:00)</i>	CURRENT STATE OF EU SOIL FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE	
9:30	Introduction	Joop Vegter
09:40	Discussion	
<i>10:00</i>	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>	
10:20	Continuation of discussion	
Session 4 <i>(11:00 – 12:00)</i>	IPPC Directive and Soil protection at industrial sites	
11:00	Introduction	Anna-Maija Pajukallio
	Discussion and conclusions for COMMON FORUM activities concerning IPPC	
<i>12:00</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	
Session 5 <i>(13:00 – 14:00)</i>	NEXT SECRETARIAT	
13:00	Evaluation of current secretariat Financial matters The future of COMMON FORUM.	Co Molenaar
Session 6 <i>(14:00 – 15:00)</i>	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
15:00	End of Meeting (tea and coffee for those who have time)	

Additional information about the meeting agenda

SESSION 1]: WELCOME & GENERAL MATTERS

After the welcome and the Tour de Table (short introduction of delegates), which need to be short in view of the meeting agenda, the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM) will give a keynote presentation on recent policy developments and the design of a more regional approach for contaminated groundwater. The NL wants to share its experiences and to discuss these approaches with policy experts from other countries in COMMON FORUM. The keynote will serve as an introduction for session 2 and will also give some policy background to the field trip at the end of the day.

SESSION 2]: HOW TO IMPROVE COOPERATION IN EU MEMBERSTATES

This session aims at identifying key issues for international cooperation between EU member states in the field of contaminated land and groundwater. The identification itself will be done in smaller groups in the afternoon. To fuel the discussion 3 speakers were invited from newly accessed member states. In view of the role of these presentations in the subsequent COMMON FORUM discussion I asked the speakers to address the following issues:

- 1] A short overview of contaminated land policy
- 2] Areas in national policy that could benefit mostly from international discussions, exchange of information and experiences, for instance on:
 - a) Risk assessment tools, Risk based standards ("soil values"), Risk communication experiences
 - b) Remediation techniques (including in situ bioremediation and monitored natural attenuation) and experiences with these techniques.
 - c) Integrated contaminated land management approaches, stakeholder involvement, financial instruments and incentives.
 - d) Restrictions on contaminated land management and remediation from EU directives like Waste directive, State aid, Groundwater directive, national policies how to streamline these restrictions.

SESSION 3]: SOIL FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

Most of us will be aware of the current status of the SFD proposal. Accepted in EU parliament (with many amendments) but not yet approved by the Council due to a blocking minority of a few countries. The positions of some these countries were merely political and not based on the content of the directive, although one could still have certain concerns about the latest drafts by the Portuguese presidency. It should be noted on the other hand that the Portuguese presidency texts did greatly improve the directive. To clarify the various positions and to see whether a positive COMMON FORUM action is possible, session 3 will provide room for an open and informal discussion

SESSION 4]: IPPC DIRECTIVE

A revision of the IPPC directive is currently discussed. The complete set of documents can be found at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ippc/proposal.htm>. Important for our work is that some soil protection related elements are introduced in IPPC, which is a positive

development. The most important ones are:

In Art 14-17 the proposal introduces a new requirement to monitor periodically the soil and groundwater on the site of the installations in order to ensure that appropriate information is available to protect these media from contamination by dangerous substances.

Art 23 mentions: In order to clarify these requirements (for soil and groundwater protection) and help achieving the objectives of the Thematic Strategy on Soil protection, the proposal requires that a baseline report is established by the operators to provide quantified information on the state of soil and groundwater contamination. Upon definitive cessation of activities, the operator is required to remediate the site and return to that state.

BREF's (best available techniques reference documents), which describe BAT (best available technology), play a central role in IPPC. Art 14 mentions a BREF that will contain among other things techniques for monitoring of soil and groundwater and for remediation of the site. The need for a BREF about preventive techniques to avoid soil contamination is not mentioned explicitly. This may raise some concerns for prevention if the BREF is about remediation only.

IPPC furthermore requires remediation of the pollution at the site if the industrial activity at the site closes definitively. The remediation goal is to restore the site to the condition at the start of the activity, the so-called "baseline". In other words "added pollution should not occur or needs to be remediated". Other EU directives or proposed directives set other soil remediation goals: "(risk based) fitness for current or approved future use for contaminated sites" in the SFD and "mitigating human health risks of soil pollution" in case the liability directive applies. The reasons behind these differences and their juridical consequences may require some explanation.

The introductory presentation by Anna-Maija Pajukallio will highlight the main subjects for our discussion.

SESSION 5J: THE NEXT COMMON FORUM SECRETARIAT

In this session the report of the secretary (CF secretariat report 2005-2008.doc) will be discussed and a new secretariat will be proposed. The next COMMON FORUM meeting will take place in France, hopefully with a new secretariat.

SESSION 6J: ANY OTHER BUSINESS, CLOSING OF THE MEETING