Basic information

2002/2172(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Environment: soil protection, thematic strategy **Subject** 3.70.01 Protection of natural resources: fauna, flora, nature, wildlife, countryside; biodiversity 3.70.06 Soil pollution, deterioration 5.05 Economic growth	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	GUTIÉRREZ-CORTINES Cristina (PPE-DE)	09/09/2002

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	AUROI Danielle (V/ALE)	11/09/2002
RETT Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism	VAN DAM Rijk (EDD)	10/09/2002

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Environment	2439	2002-06-25

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Environment	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
16/04/2002	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2002)0179	Summary
25/06/2002	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
02/09/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
07/10/2003	Vote in committee		

07/10/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0354/2003	
18/11/2003	Debate in Parliament		
19/11/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0507/2003	Summary
19/11/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2002/2172(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/5/16489

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0354/2003	07/10/2003	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0507/2003 OJ C 087 07.04.2004, p. 0076-0395 E	19/11/2003	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2002)0179	16/04/2002	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1015/2002 OJ C 061 14.03.2003, p. 0049	18/09/2002	
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0190/2002 OJ C 128 29.05.2003, p. 0043-0048	12/02/2003	

Environment: soil protection, thematic strategy

2002/2172(COS) - 16/04/2002 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to develop a thematic strategy for soil protection. CONTENT : in May 2001, the Commission indicated soil loss and declining fertility as a main threat to sustainable development as it erodes the viability of agricultural land. Against this background, the Community's 6th Environment Action

Programme includes a thematic strategy on soil protection with particular attention to preventing erosion, deterioration, contamination and desertification. The purpose of this Communication is to build on this political commitment in order that soil protection be achieved more fully and systematically in coming years by setting out the way towards developing this strategy. However, this Communication is also the first occasion on which the Commission has addressed soil protection for its own sake and therefore it is both broad and descriptive in approach. It addresses inter alia erosion, the decline in soil organic matter and prevention of pollution. It aims in particular to: - describe the multiple functions of soils; - identify its characteristics relevant to policy development; - identify the main threats to soil; - present an overview of relevant Community policy; - present the current situation regarding soil information and monitoring and identify gaps which need to be filled as a basis for soil protection policy; - establish the policy basis and outline the steps towards the presentation of a thematic strategy on soil protection in 2004. The Commission considers that soil protection at this stage can best be achieved through a strategy based on 1) initiatives, now, in environmental policies, 2) integration in other policies, 3) soil monitoring, and 4) the future development of new actions based on monitoring results.

Environment: soil protection, thematic strategy

2002/2172(COS) - 19/11/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Cristina Gutierrez CORTINEZ on the Commission Communication on thematic strategy for soil protection. Parliament called on the Commission to present, by July 2004, the thematic strategy for soil protection which should geared to the following: - putting an end to the accumulation in soil of substances which pose an environmental and health hazard; - reversing the alarming trend towards erosion, compaction and sealing, the removal and contamination of soil; - protecting soil in its role in storing CO2, securing water resources and preserving biodiversity; - protecting soil for the sustainable production of food and renewable resources. It asked the Commission to do the following: - to draw up a scientific soil catalogue which should include the nature of the soil, its biography, health and vulnerability, degradation and erosion processes and contaminated areas, recognising the existence of high-value soils (in terms of agriculture, geology, ecology, history or the countryside) and the need to draw up recommendations for their conservation and sustainable use. Parliament emphasized the importance of harmonising analytical methods to obtain comparable soil data; - to establish, when the scientific soil catalogue is drawn up, a link between soil protection and soil use, since any scientific and taxonomic classification of soil, would be less effective without the creation of mechanisms for the constant surveillance of soil use (monitoring increases in irrigation, reclassification of protected areas, urban development on wetlands, construction of infrastructure on fertile soil, etc - to draw up guidelines for preventing, monitoring and controlling soil pollution. Parliament proposed that European soils be zonified, taking account of geographic, climatic and typological heterogeneity, including uses and risks and its proposals for feasible monitoring at the appropriate levels; Finally, Parliament felt that soil protection should be better integrated into Community policies, in particular, in the context of the common agricultural policy (CAP), on (regional) infrastructure projects co-financed by the EU both in connection with the Trans-European Networks, and when granting support from the Structural and Cohesion Funds and pre-accession aid.