

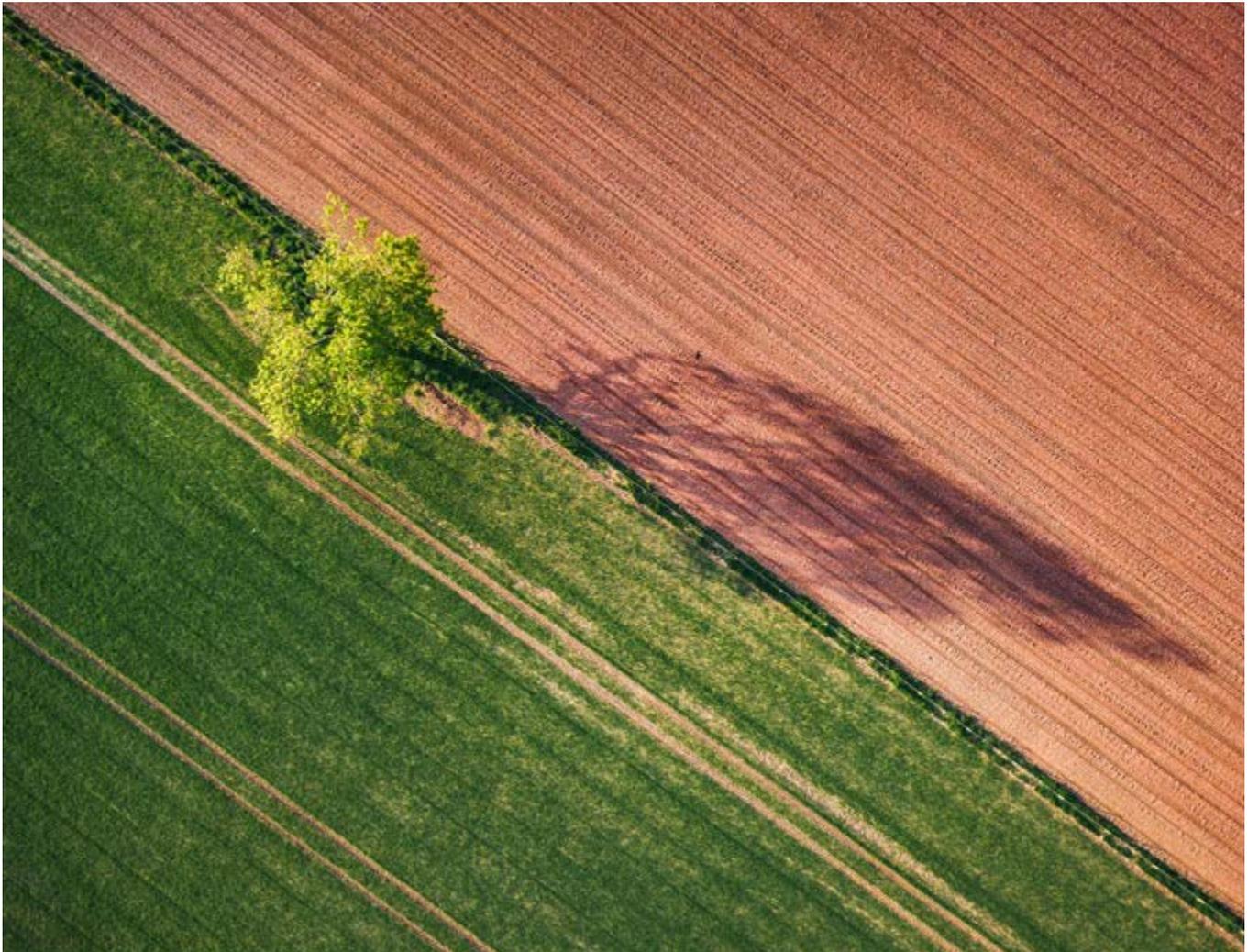
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# HEALTHY POLICIES FOR HEALTHY SOIL: THE GREEN DEAL PLAYING FIELD

**10 MARCH, 2022**  
**10.30 -13.00 CET**  
**ONLINE**



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CIRCULAR  
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**soil4life**

What is essential is invisible to the eye

## INTRODUCTION

The new Soil Strategy presented by the European Commission does not only update the measures and targets of actions already taken, but requires a change of vision: Europe must protect its soils and must determine the conditions for keeping soils 'healthy'. This is not the case today: at least two thirds of Europe's soil is not in a healthy condition.

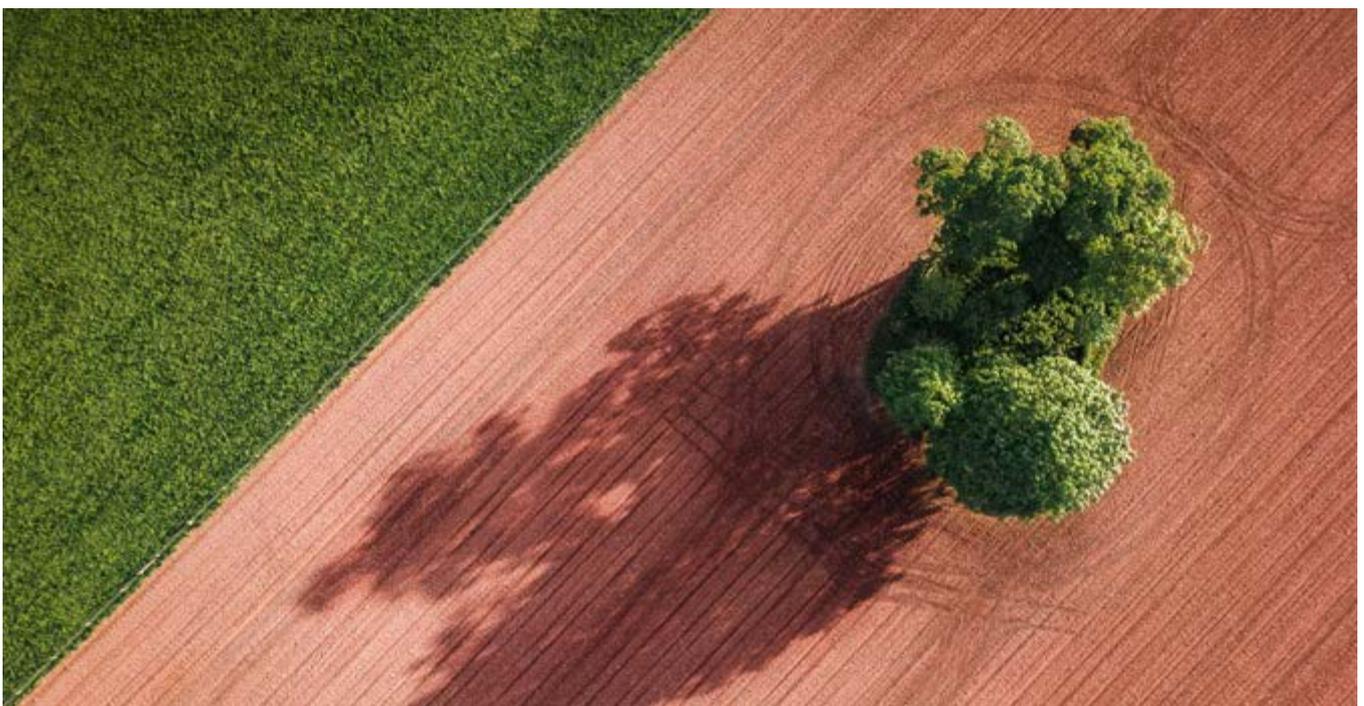
Traditionally, soil has followed the historical course which led to the formation of modern States, the borders of which have until now constituted a limit to EU intervention in the soil sphere, in contrast to other environmental issues such as water or air quality.

However, the founding treaties of the EU refer to the principle of subsidiarity, and subsidiarity requires not a subtraction, but a sharing of responsibilities: in order to ensure long-term food security, to protect the biodiversity that soils host, the ability to manage mineral nutrient cycles and water flows and quality, a shared effort at a European scale is required to combat degradation agents, starting with the management of organic matter, on which the soil's health depends and reaching into soils' ability to prevent the adverse effects of climate change. A European strategy for healthy soils cannot be effective without the definition of targets, and a road map to achieve them.

For this, a steering is needed and it must be carried out by the EU, through regulative instruments that bind all players to comply with the agreed rules, taking into account the roadmap of strategies that depend on soil services: soil health is also in fact central to the development of the circular economy, climate mitigation and adaptation, halting biodiversity loss, stopping pollution, implementing sustainable food systems.

It is no exaggeration to say that soil is both a playground for ecological transition and a natural, basic resource essential for its implementation. However, soil resources in Europe have become dramatically scarce, so much so that Europeans have to rely on soil from third countries even to produce the essential raw materials required by the food processing industry, in many cases contending with the primary needs of indigenous peoples: soil is also a major geopolitical issue.

The implementation of the Soil Strategy is a priority and urgent challenge, and requires a joint effort of which the Healthy Soil Law and the call for shared responsibility of all 27 EU countries must be part.



## PROGRAM

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Damiano Di Simine - Soil4life project,  
Legambiente

***Setting the scene***

### KEY NOTE SPEAKERS

Martin Hojsik - MEP

***Soil protection in the European Parliament  
debate***

Humberto Delgado Rosa - Director Biodiversity  
DG Envi. D

***The challenges of the new soil strategy***

Nathalie Sauze-Vandevyver - Director,  
Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural  
Development

***A soil deal for Europe***

### PANEL CONTRIBUTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Lara Fornabaio - Client Earth

***Soil between global commitments, EU  
regulations and national responsibilities***

Luca Montanarella - JRC

***Soil health: define a set of common  
indicators for the monitoring of the diversity  
of European soils***

Bram Moeskops - IFOAM

***Soil protection in the agroecological  
transition***

Claire Chenu - INRAE/AGROPARIS TECH  
France, Coordinator of the European Joint  
Programme SOIL

Celia Nyssens - EEB

***Carbon Farming, opportunities and Risks for  
agriculture and the Circular Economy***

Allan Buckwell - RISE Foundation

***Europe, soil protection and the 2030 Agenda***

### CONCLUSIONS

Sergio Ponsá Salas - Director ECBPI - BETA  
Technological Center, Barcelona

***Soil at the heart of the responsible  
development of the bioeconomy value  
chains***

DAVID NEWMAN - MODERATOR

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**ALLAN  
BUCKWELL**



**CLAIRE  
CHENU**



**HUMBERTO  
DELGADO ROSA**

### **Allan Buckwell**

Allan was Prof of Agricultural Economics, Wye College (then Imperial College) London, 1984-99, and Policy Director at the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) 2000-2011. He specializes in European rural and food policy, especially the CAP, trade, technology, environment and structural change in farming. Since a spell in the Analysis unit of DG Agri in the European Commission 1995/6 his principal interest is balancing the food production and environmental land management roles of agriculture in Britain, Europe, and indeed, globally.

He is currently an Associate in the Institute for European Environmental Policy Brussels, and acts as research Director at the RISE Foundation Brussels. His two most recent RISE papers are: "Where is the Safe Operating Space for EU Livestock?" and "Crop Protection and the EU food system, where are they going?" He published a paper in 2020 for the Worshipful Company of Farmers entitled "UK food and agriculture post-Brexit", and his most recent IEEP publication with David Baldock is "Just Transition in the EU agriculture and land use sector".

### **Claire Chenu**

Claire Chenu is research director at INRAE (French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment) and consulting professor of soil science at AgroParisTech. Her research, at Ecosys research unit, deals with soil organic carbon: dynamics, stabilization processes and the effect of cropping practices on soil C stocks.

In 2019, she was the European Geosciences Union soil science medallist and she received the Inra Lifetime Achievement Award. She is involved in the science-policy-practice interface and in awareness raising activities on soils. She is a member the Scientific and Technical Committee of the 4 per 1000 initiative. She coordinates the EU H2020 European Joint Programme SOIL: "Towards climate-smart sustainable management of agricultural soils".

### **Humberto Delgado Rosa**

Humberto Delgado Rosa is the Director for Biodiversity, DG Environment, European Commission. Previously he was Director for Mainstreaming Adaptation and Low Carbon Technology in DG Climate Action. He is experienced in European and international environmental policy, particularly in biodiversity and climate change issues. He served as Secretary of State for the Environment of the Portuguese Government from March 2005 to June 2011. Between 1995 and 2002 he was an advisor for environmental matters to the Prime-Minister of Portugal. He holds a PhD in Evolutionary Biology. H. Delgado Rosa was born in Lisbon in 1960.



**DAMIANO  
DI SIMINE**



**LARA  
FORNABAIO**



**MARTIN  
HOJSIK**

### **Damiano Di Simone**

Scientific coordinator for Legambiente of the Soil4life project. He's from Milan, born in 1967 and a family man, with studies in chemistry and biology and a PhD in food biotechnology. He has worked on protected areas and territory, especially in mountain environments, and chaired the Italian committee of CIPRA (International Commission for the Protection of the Alps) in the early 2000s. He has long collaborated with Legambiente Lombardia, of which he was president between 2006 and 2015. He was the initiator of the European citizens' initiative Peole4Soil and is now one of the national coordinators of the scientific office, with responsibility for soil issues and EU agricultural policy.

### **Lara Fornabaio**

Lara Fornabaio leads ClientEarth's work on agriculture, shaping the team advocacy and litigation strategies. She mainly focuses on the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), advocating for a new subsidy system that rewards farmers to transition towards environmental positive farming practices. She oversees the work on sustainable food system and soil protection and supports the team in bringing legal challenges aimed at better implementation and enforcement of environmental laws tackling pollution from agricultural sources.

Before joining ClientEarth, Lara worked for the International Training Centre of the UN International Labour Organisation and was an intern at the Centre for International Environmental Law in Geneva. In ClientEarth, she first worked as a lawyer within the Chemicals team and then she contributed to the development of the agriculture team, which she leads since November 2020. Lara holds a PhD in EU Food Law from the University of Ferrara (Italy) and has carried out research in several countries, including The Netherlands (Wageningen University - Law and Governance Group), France (University of Nantes - Droit et Changement Social), and Switzerland (Swiss Institute for Comparative Law). Lara has presented her research in prestigious international academic settings, including Oxford University, Berkley University, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. She has researched in a variety of legal and multidisciplinary domains, from sustainable food systems, to governance studies and indigenous law.

### **Martin Hojsik**

Martin Hojsik is a Slovak MEP from the Renew Europe Group. In the European Parliament, he focuses among others on the soil protection, chemical policies, including pesticides, circular economy, pollinators protection, climate and sustainable financing. Hojsik has a longstanding experience in matters of environmental protection and climate change. He is an active MEP in tree committees (ENVI, ITRE, BUDG). He initiated Resolution on Soil Protection in the European Parliament and currently serves as the rapporteur for the POPs Regulation review and shadow rapporteur for review of LULUCF Regulation. He is also the official contact point for the ECHA.

Over the past 25 year, he worked in a number of international organizations including Four Paws, Action Aid or Greenpeace International. He studied genetics at the Comenius University in Bratislava.



**BRAM MOESKOPS**



**LUCA MONTANARELLA**



**DAVID NEWMAN**

### **Bram Moeskops**

Bram Moeskops is Research & Innovation Manager at IFOAM Organics Europe, the European umbrella organisation of the organic sector, and Senior Scientific Coordinator at TP Organics, the European Technology Platform (ETP) for organic food and farming. Bram Moeskops is member of different advisory groups on EU R&I policy. He is vice-chair of the Stakeholder Advisory Board of FACCE-JPI.

Bram Moeskops has coordinated and is coordinating several Horizon projects that are key for the development of the organic sector (e.g., LIVESEED promoting organic seed use and plant breeding) or that facilitate knowledge exchange (e.g. OK-Net EcoFeed on regional feed for organic monogastrics). At TP Organics, Bram Moeskops has edited two Strategic Research & Innovation Agendas for the organic sector. Before joining IFOAM Organics Europe, Bram has worked at the Flemish Platform for Sustainable Development, and the umbrella organisation of the Flemish North-South movement. He holds a PhD in Soil Science, a Master in Bioscience Engineering from Ghent University and a Master's degree in International Relations and Diplomacy from Antwerp University.

### **Luca Montanarella**

Senior Expert. Working since 1992 at the JRC of the European Commission. In 2011 supporting the establishment of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) at FAO. 2012-2018 chairing the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS). 2016-2018 co-chairing the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment. Currently project portfolio leader for the JRC work programme 2021-22 on Soil Health including the newly established EU Soil Observatory. More than 250 publications, books and reports available [here](#).

Numerous awards and memberships, including the Glinka World Soil Prize 2020. Member of the Academy of Agricultural Sciences of France, Doctor Honoris Causa at the Academy of Agricultural Sciences of Bulgaria and Member of the Academy of Agricultural Sciences of Slovakia.

### **David Newman**

David Newman lived in Europe and the Middle East until 2016 when he returned to the UK. He was the Executive Director of Greenpeace Italy 1994-1997 after many years as a volunteer; from 1999 until 2014 he led the Italian composting and biogas association CIC and he led the Italian Bioplastics Association from 2011 to 2015. From 2012 to 2016 he was President of the International Solid Waste Association. During this time (2012-13) he was personal advisor to the Italian Minister of Environment, Andrea Orlando. He was President of the World Biogas Association from November 2016 to July 2021. David founded and leads the Bio Based and Biodegradable Industries Association UK since 2015 which works to promote the bioeconomy in the UK. He founded and leads the European Circular Bioeconomy Policy Initiative promoting policies in favour of soil health and the bioeconomy in Brussels. He is a member of the Stakeholder Advisory Group at DEFRA and a chartered member of the CIWM. His e-book "Everything is Connected, understanding a complicated world" has been published in September 2020.



**CELIA NYSENS**



**SERGIO PONSÁ SALAS**



**NATALIA SAUZE-VANDEVYVER**

### **Celia Nyssens**

Celia leads the European Environmental Bureau's agriculture and food systems policy team. Her work currently focuses on the nexus between agriculture and climate policy, in particular carbon farming and agriculture in the 'Fit for 55' package. She holds a B.Sc. in Political Sciences from KU Leuven and an M.Sc. in Global Environmental Politics from the University of Edinburgh. Before joining the EEB, she worked on agricultural and climate policy in Scotland.

### **Sergio Ponsá Salas**

Sergio Ponsa is director at Beta Technological Centre at University of Vic-Central University of Catalonia since 2014 and professor at the same university. His expertise is mainly related to environmental technologies related to organic carbon and nutrients recycling and production of biobased fertilisers, organic amendments and other added value products. The Center that he is leading is currently coordinating important EU initiatives such as the H2020 FERTIMANURE, aiming to produce safe and high quality biobased fertilisers from livestock waste, and participating in a large number of EU innovation projects related with sustainable food production systems and sustainable social development, including two H2020-BBI Flagships and more than other 20 on-going EU projects. He has also strong expertise in the transference of technology and knowledge since he has been involved in more than 50 private R+D+i projects with companies and public administrations. Sergio is member of the group of experts on sustainable management of livestock wastes of the Catalan Ministry of Climate Change (DACC) and member of the Catalan Council for Food Innovation. He leads and represents the Interred Med Green Growth Community at Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Working Group on Environment and Climate Change and strongly contributing to the UfM post-2020 environment agenda (2030 initiative). Finally, he is member (directly or through BETA Center) of the next clusters and networks: Catalan Cluster of Meat and alternative protein (INNOVACC) (advisory committee); Food Services Cluster; Catalan Water Partnership (CWP); Spanish Table of Wastewater Treatment (META); Spanish Composting Network (REC); EU BioIndustries Consortium (BIC); European Bioeconomy Network (EuBioNET); Biorefine Cluster EU; European Sustainable Phosphorous Platform (ESPP); and European Circular Bioeconomy Policy Initiative (ECBPI).

### **Nathalie Sauze-Vandevyver**

Since 1987, Mrs Nathalie Sauze-Vandevyver has held various positions within the services of the European Commission (Financial Control, DG Enterprise and DG AGRI). After 18 years in DG AGRI legal department, she has been nominated in October 2017 as Director of the Directorate "Quality, Research and Innovation, Outreach" within the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development.

Her mission is, in particular, to promote research and innovation in the agricultural sector through the EU's research policy (Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe). In 2021 she was appointed Mission Manager for the mission "A soil deal for Europe".

## **SPEAKERS**