

Discussion

HCH in EU BLOCK 8

Wednesday February 22, 2023

Session 2

Questionnaires sent out

- To make an inventory on the spin-off of the HCH in EU project
- The questions are:
 - Task 1: Are actions taken to finally sustainably manage your potentially impacted HCH sites?
 - ✓ If yes what actions?
 - ✓ If no, why not?
 - ✓ Are there any specific needs in order to take (more) actions in your country?
 - Task 2: Do you follow the project road map for your site?
 - ✓ If yes can you provide us with an update of the action taken?
 - ✓ If no, why not?
 - ✓ Are there any specific needs in order to (further) implement the road map?

Only Galicia responded

- **Task 1: Are actions taken? – Yes**

- ✓ Specific actions for soils contaminated by HCH will be included in the Galicia ERDF Operational Programme 2021-2027 that is being drafted
- ✓ Work is also being carried out on protocols to detect new sources of contamination: an earthworks protocol and an early warning protocol
- ✓ Likewise, progress is being made on the tender for the implementation of a project to remove waste from the manufacture of lindane in the area of O Contrasto, in the municipality of Porriño

- **Are there any specific needs in order to take (more) actions in your country? - Yes**

- ✓ Yes, the lack of funding is a challenge for the implementation of recovery actions in the affected areas

Only Galicia responded

- **Task 2: Do you follow the project road map for your site? - Yes**
 - ✓ Although some actions have not yet been implemented due to lack of budget
- **Update on the actions from the action plan taken?**
 - ✓ Update on Actions from action plan provided

Are there any specific needs in order to (further) implement the road map?

- ✓ Lindane contamination requires high economic needs, which must be matched by the need for specialised technical staff, and further funding is necessary to continue the roadmap

Conclusions

- It seems that the inventory of potentially HCH contaminated site in EU, the deliverable of Task 1, did not enhance the sustainable management of HCH contaminated sites EU-wide
- The authorities of the 7 sites of Task 2 are profiting from the site specific Road Map and Action Plan provided by the project
- The specific needs in order to (further) implement the road map is funding

Questions

- Does the EU Soil Strategy for short (2023), mid (2030) and long-term (2050) provide enough basis to remediate the HCH contaminated sites EU-wide by 2050?
- Provide the 10-point action plan in the Green Paper “*The urgent necessity of healthy soils*” practical instructions to initiate remediation of HCH contaminated sites EU wide
- What should be done more to have remediated the HCH contaminated sites EU wide by 2050?

Does the EU Soil Strategy for short (2023), mid (2030) and long-term (2050) provide enough basis to remediate the HCH contaminated sites EU wide by 2050?

EU Soil Strategy for short-term (2023)

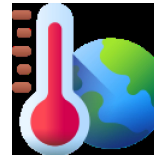
- Soils deserve the utmost and urgent attention of governments, parliaments, public authorities at all levels as well economic operators, soil users, local communities and citizens
- The Commission will table a dedicated legislative proposal on soil health by 2023 (short-term) which will enable the objectives of the EU Soil Strategy to be met and good soil health to be achieved across the EU by 2050 (long-term)



EU Soil Strategy for the mid-term (2030)

Soil a key solution for our big challenges

- Soil for climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Soil and the circular economy
- Soil biodiversity for human, animal and plant health
- Soil for healthy water resources



Preventing soil and land degradation and restoring healthy soils

- Sustainable soil management is the norm (follows the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil)
- Preventing desertification
- Preventing soil pollution
- Restoring degraded soils and remediating contaminated sites



EU Soil Strategy for the mid-term 2030

We need to know more about soils

- Soil and the digital agenda
- Soil data and monitoring
- Soil research and innovation



Enabling the transition to healthy soils

- Private finance and EU funding
- Soil literacy and societal engagement



Conclusions

- Successful implementation requires inclusive and broad governance arrangements at national, EU and global level
- Need a 'network of networks'
- The EU Soil Expert Group will be enlarged
- Our soils need to be healed. It is a matter of our own survival

EU Soil Strategy for the long-term (2050)

- By 2050, all EU soil ecosystems are in healthy condition and are thus more resilient, which will require very decisive changes in this decade.
- By then, protection, sustainable use and restoration of soil has become the norm.
- As a key solution, healthy soils contribute to address our big challenges of achieving climate neutrality and becoming resilient to climate change, developing a clean and circular (bio)economy, reversing biodiversity loss, safeguarding human health, halting desertification and reversing land degradation

Provide the 10-point action plan in the Green Paper “The urgent necessity of healthy soils” practical instructions to initiate remediation of HCH contaminated sites EU wide?

10-point action plan from the Green Paper

1. Give soils a voice in decision making and actions
2. Acknowledge the intrinsic value of soils
3. Transition in mindset and actions is crucial
4. Take responsibility, take control
5. Set land degradation to zero
6. Programmatic approach soil remediation
7. Connect soil with other societal challenges
8. New business models
9. New research and innovation models
10. Data, data and more data



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION