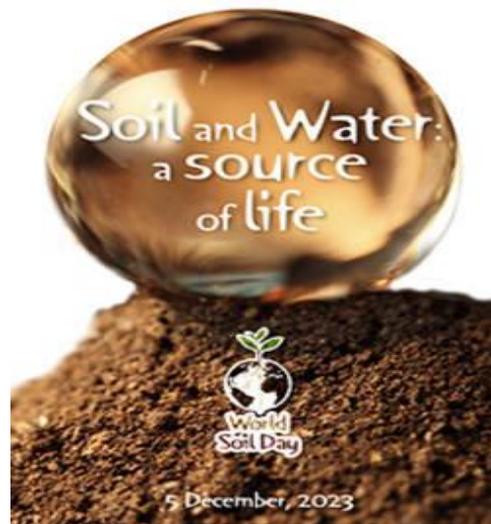


EU Soil Monitoring and Resilience Directive

Riccardo Gambini, ECN Policy Officer



www.compost-digestate.eu



www.saveorganicsinsoil.org



 [Linkedin](#)

 @ECNnetwork

www.compost-digestate.eu

European Compost Network

 **Vision** Living well within the limited resources of the planet and respecting the organic cycle

 **Mission** Leading the organic recycling industry through our focus on separate collection of biowaste, quality assurance for compost and digestate and to keep our soils healthy

Values

-  Care
-  Internet & Networking
-  Simplicity

Pillars

-  Quality Assurance
-  Advocacy
-  Market
-  Innovation


Circularity & Sustainability is at the heart of everything we do

67 Members from 28 European Countries

≈ 48 M tpa Treatment Capacity

> 4.500 Composting & Anaerobic Digestion Plants

Biowaste & The Circular Bioeconomy

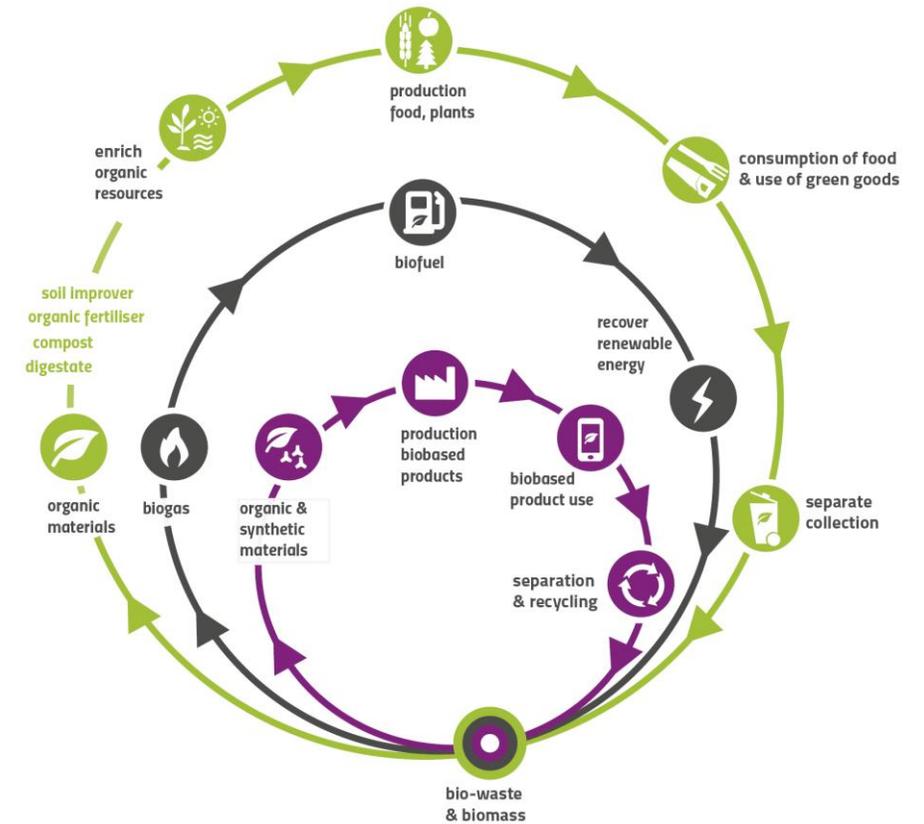
BIOWASTE

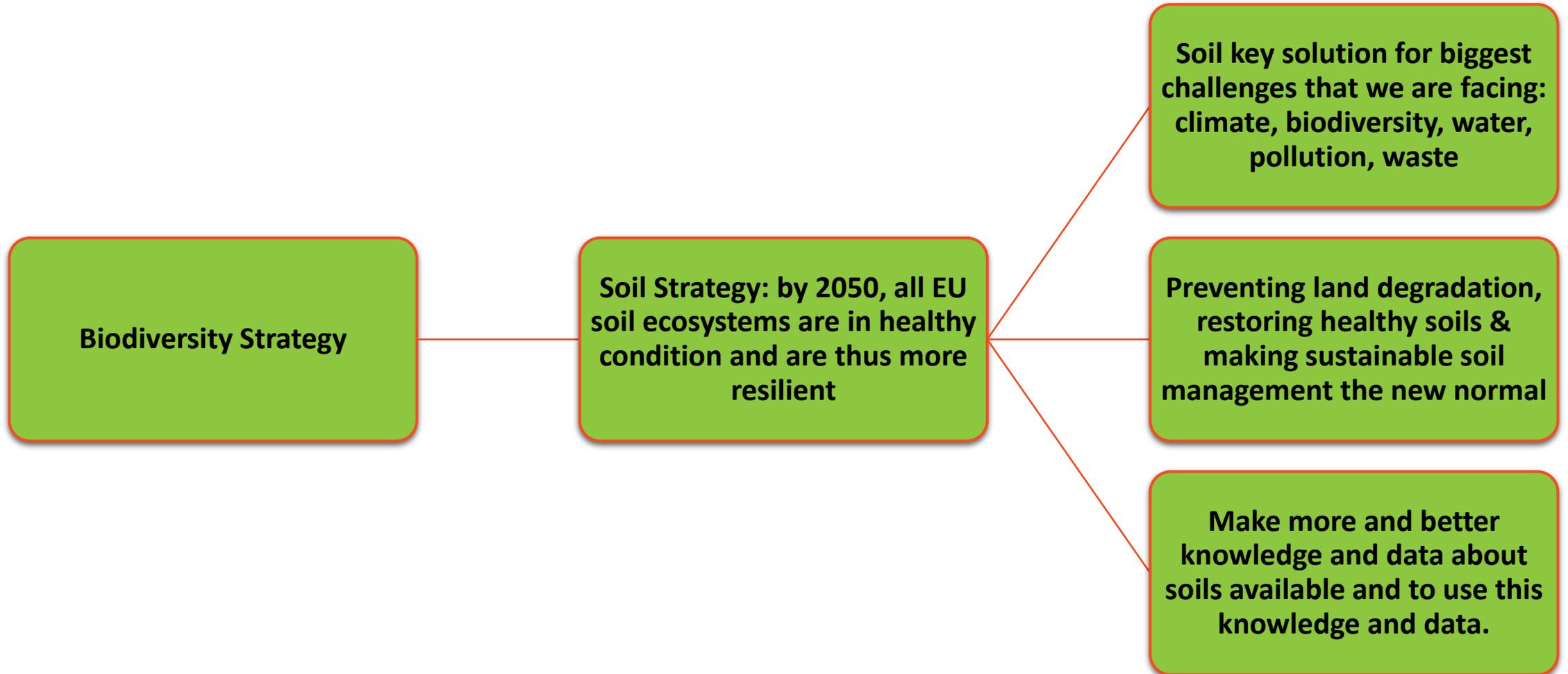


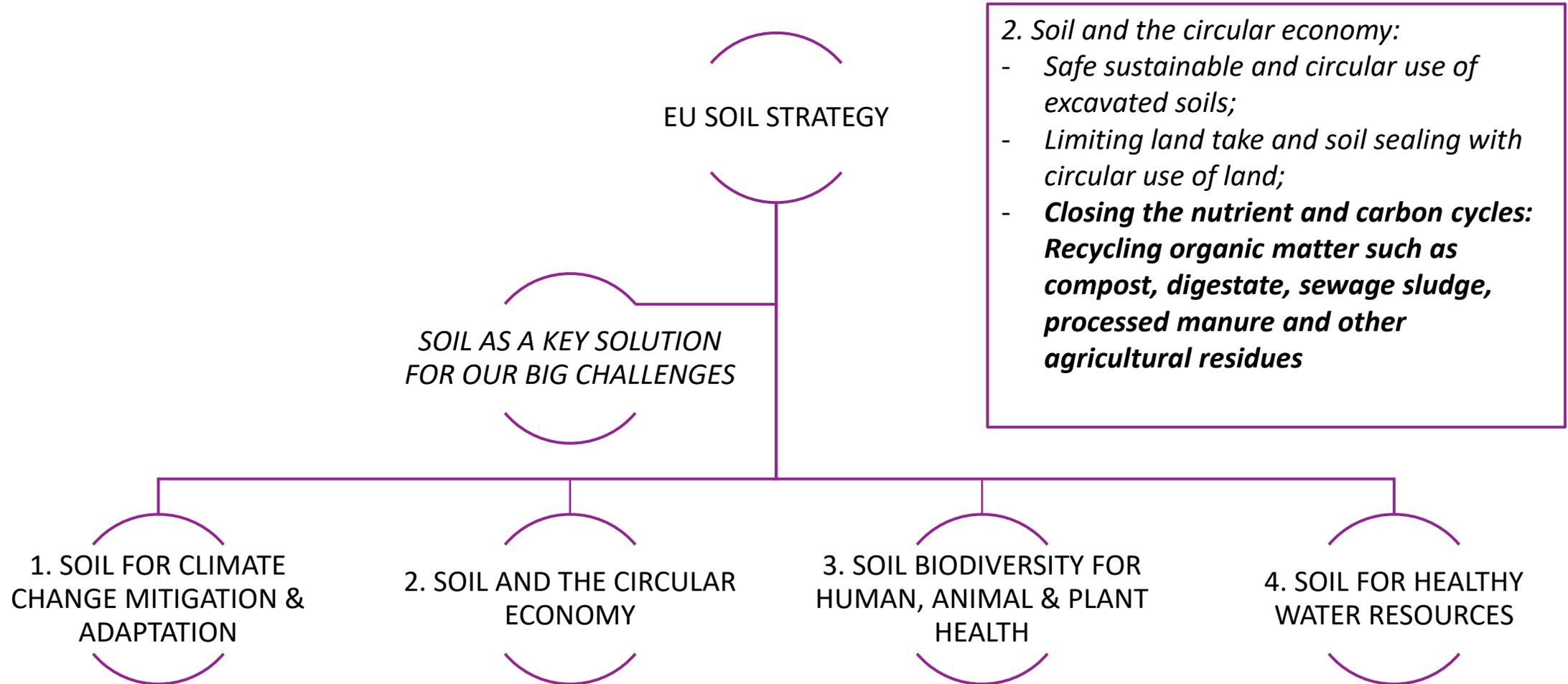
A Cross-Cutting Resource



BIOWASTE in the Circular Bioeconomy









ECN Position Paper

Date: 01/12/2022

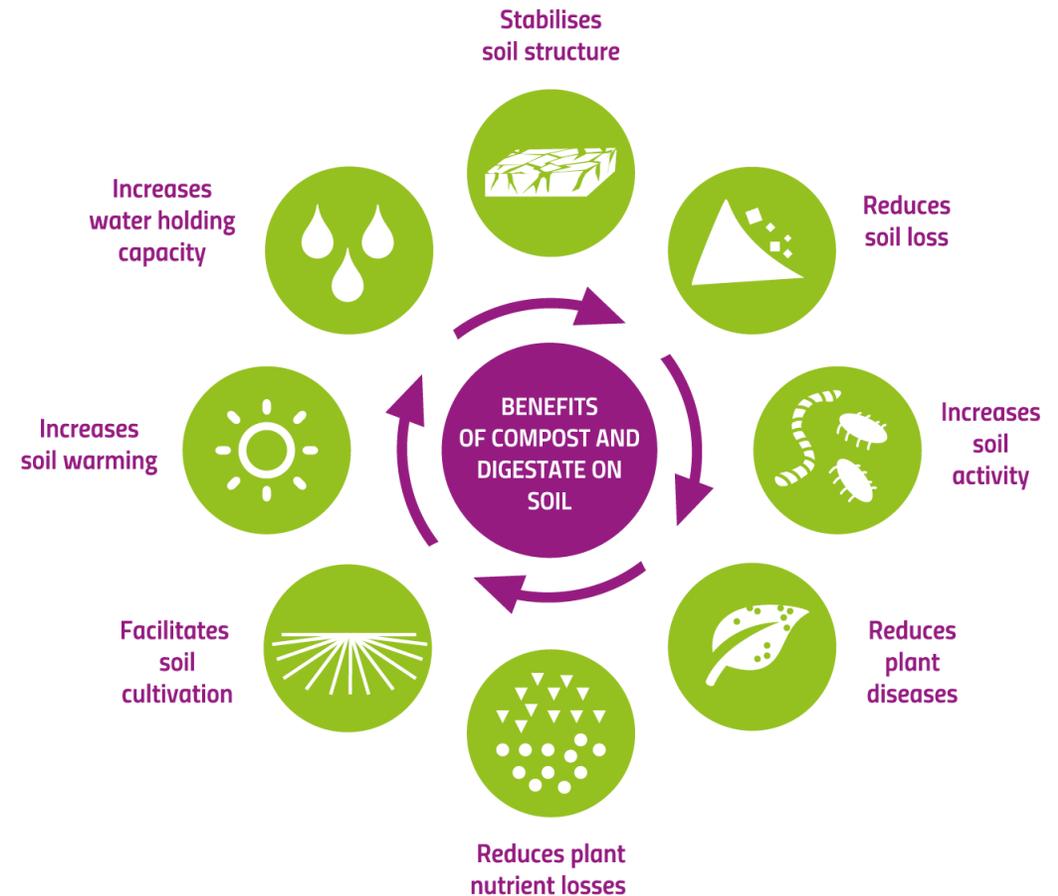
The importance of recycled organic waste soil improvers in the frame of the upcoming Soil Health Law

Background and summary

In the European Union there is an urgent need to reach healthy soil status in the shortest possible time, since between 60 and 70% of this scarce non-renewable resource is classified as unhealthy. This requires immediate action, with the swift adoption and implementation of an adequate EU regulatory framework.

The regulatory framework for an EU Soil Health Law was established within the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, which was – as part of the EU Green Deal – adopted in 2021. The EU Soil Strategy, issued in November 2021, sets a new vision with the aim of having all European soils in a healthy condition by 2050 and making soil ecosystem more resilient. These goals are closely linked and in synergy with other EU policies and initiatives proposed under the EU Green Deal package: these associated policies include missions focusing on carbon removals through better soil restoration and soil management (EU Carbon farming Initiative), the better closing of sustainable nutrient cycles and the utilization of recycled nutrients (Integrated nutrient management action plan Initiative), and the better management of agricultural soils in order to increase their capability of providing relevant ecosystem services (EU Biodiversity Strategy, CAP Strategic Plans).

An EU Soil Health Law should draw up harmonised common rules and specify concrete measures for the protection, restoration and sustainable use of soils, as well as the options for soil monitoring at EU level. These ambitious objectives can only be achieved by integrated and comprehensive measures which will contribute and lead to achieving good biological, physical and chemical condition of soils. This framework is complemented by the EU Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe' which provides new tools for research and innovation to lead the transition towards healthy soils.



SOIL MONITORING LAW – Roadmap

NOV 2021

EU Soil Strategy for 2030

FEB – MAR
2022

Call for evidence Soil Health Law

AUG - OCT
2022

Public consultation Soil Health Law

OCT 2022

1st meeting of the Commission Expert Group on soil

FEB 2023

2nd meeting of the Commission Expert Group on soil

DG ENV submits Impact Assessment of SHL to Regulatory Scrutiny Board

MAR 2023

DG ENV addresses RSB comments

MAY 2023

Regulatory Scrutiny Board gives positive opinion

7 JUNE
2023

Initial date of publication

5 JULY
2023

Publication of the proposal: Soil Monitoring and Resilience Directive



SUBJECT MATTER & SCOPE

- Measures on: monitoring & assessment of soil health, sustainable soil management, contaminated sites
- All EU soils
- No mandatory targets



DEFINITIONS

- Definition of soil health
- Establishment of soil districts through certain parameters
- Designation of national competent authorities



MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

- Soil descriptors and criteria (but flexibilities)
- Sampling points & methodologies
- «one out all out principle»
- Assessment at least every 5y



SUSTAINABLE SOIL MANAGEMENT

- Definition of Sustainable Soil Management practices
- Land take mitigation principles



CONTAMINATED SITES

- Identification, investigation, management of contaminated sites
- Risk based approach
- National register



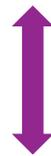
FINANCING, INFORMATION TO PUBLIC & ACCESS TO JUSTICE

- Data from monitoring publicly available
- Challenge MSs measures

SUSTAINABLE SOIL MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES: Member State shall define sustainable soil management practices respecting the sustainable soil management principles listed in Annex III of the Directive



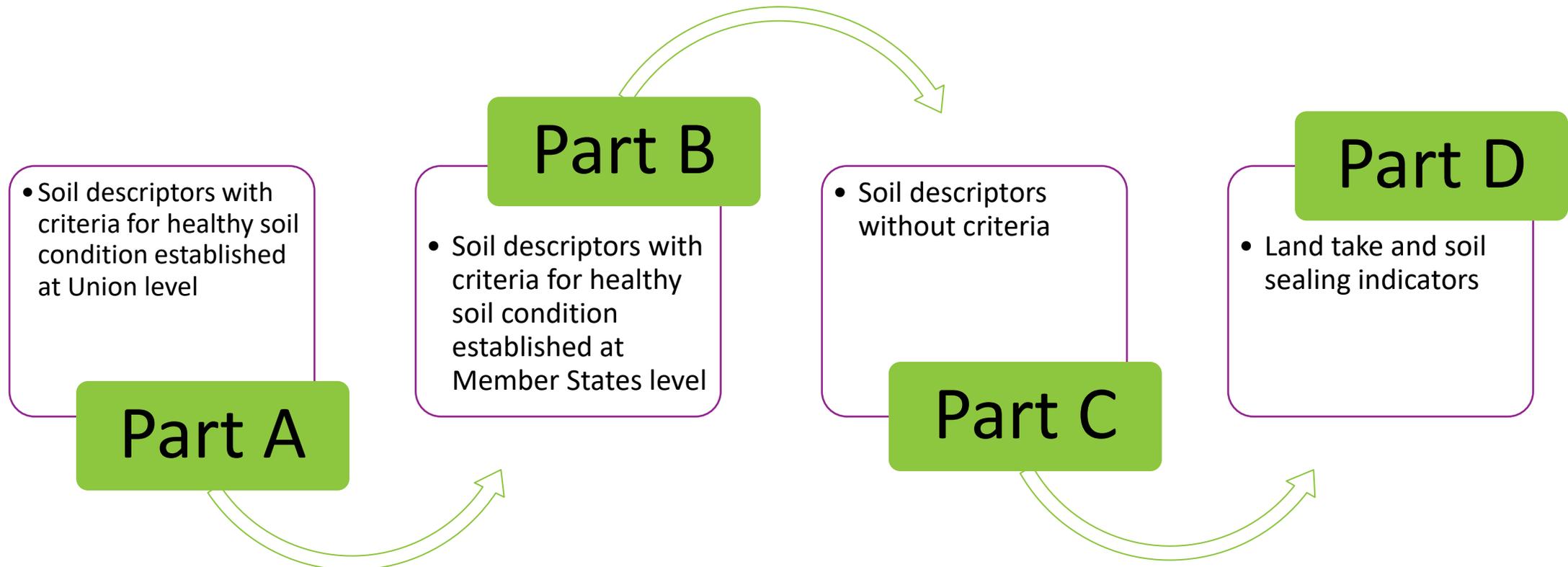
When fertilization is applied, ensure adaptation to the needs of the plant and trees at the given location and in the given period, and to the condition of soil and **prioritize circular solutions that enrich the organic content**



MEMBER STATES SHOULD GIVE PREFERENCE
TO COMPOST AND DIGESTATE APPLICATION!

ANNEX I

SOIL DESCRIPTORS, CRITERIA FOR HEALTHY SOIL CONDITION, AND LAND TAKE AND SOIL SEALING INDICATORS



SOIL MONITORING LAW – Soil descriptors

Part A – established at Union level	
Aspect of soil degradation	Soil descriptor
SALINIZATION	Electrical Conductivity (deci-Siemens per meter)
SOIL EROSION	Soil erosion rate (tonnes per hectare per year)
LOSS OF SOIL ORGANIC CARBON	Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) concentration (g per kg)
SUBSOIL COMPACTION	Bulk density in subsoil (upper part of B or E horizon); Member States may replace this descriptor with an equivalent parameter (g per cm ³)

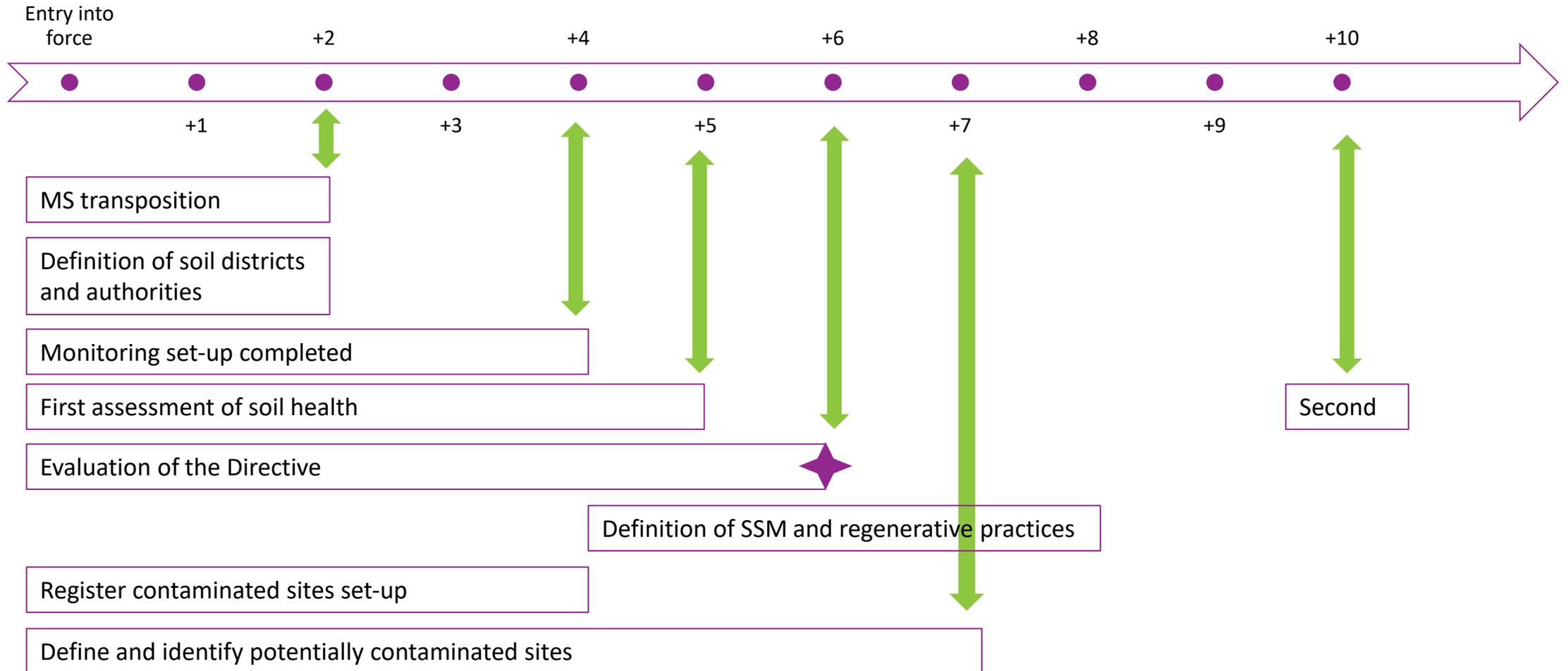
SOIL MONITORING LAW – Soil descriptors

Part B – Established at MS level	
Aspect of soil degradation	Soil descriptor
EXCESS NUTRIENT CONTENT IN SOIL	Extractable phosphorus (mg per kg)
SOIL CONTAMINATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - concentration of heavy metals in soil: As, Sb, Cd, Co, Cr (total), Cr (VI), Cu, Hg, Pb, Ni, Tl, V, Zn (µg per kg) - concentration of a selection of organic contaminants established by Member States and taking into account existing concentration limits e.g. for water quality and air emissions in Union legislation.
REDUCTION OF SOIL CAPACITY TO RETAIN WATER	Soil water holding capacity of the soil sample (% of volume of water / volume of saturated soil)

SOIL MONITORING LAW – Soil descriptors

Part C – Without criteria, optional monitoring	
Aspect of soil degradation	Soil descriptor
EXCESS NUTRIENT CONTENT IN SOIL	Nitrogen in soil (mg g ⁻¹)
ACIDIFICATION	Soil acidity (pH)
TOPSOIL COMPACTION	Bulk density in topsoil (A-horizon) (g cm ⁻³)
LOSS OF SOIL BIODIVERSITY	Soil basal respiration ((mm ³ O ₂ g ⁻¹ hr ⁻¹) in dry soil Member States may also select other optional soil descriptors for biodiversity

SOIL MONITORING LAW - Timeline



SOIL MONITORING LAW – ECN Feedback

Commission adoption

FEEDBACK: OPEN

Feedback period

07 July 2023 - 03 November 2023 (midnight Brussels time)

The Commission would like to hear your views.

This adopted act is open for feedback for a period of **8 week(s)**. All feedback received will be summarised by the European Commission and presented to the European Parliament and Council with the aim of feeding into the legislative debate. Feedback received will be published on this site and therefore must adhere to the [feedback rules](#).

In order to contribute you'll need to register or login using your existing social media account.

Give feedback >



Proposal for a directive - COM(2023)416
English (1.7 MB - PDF - 69 pages)

Download ↓



ECN Position Paper
Date: 11/10/2023

ECN feedback on the Commission's proposal for a Soil Law

11 October 2023

The European Compost Network ECN welcomes the opportunity to provide feedbacks on the Commission's public consultation concerning the new proposal for a directive on soil monitoring and resilience.

Being the association representing the bio-waste recycling sector at European level, the ECN has been a strong advocate for sustainable management of soils since its creation in the early 2000s. In fact, bio-waste recovery through composting and anaerobic digestion produces organic soil improvers and fertilisers – compost and digestate – whose application is nowadays all the more important since degraded soils account for 60-70 % of European land. High-quality compost and digestate improve soil health and productivity in many different ways, by increasing soil organic matter and soil biodiversity, reducing soil compaction, improving water holding capacity and by being sources of recycled nutrients which are held in the soil longer thanks to the positive effect of the increased organic matter on soil buffering capacity, thus requiring fewer mineral fertilisers.

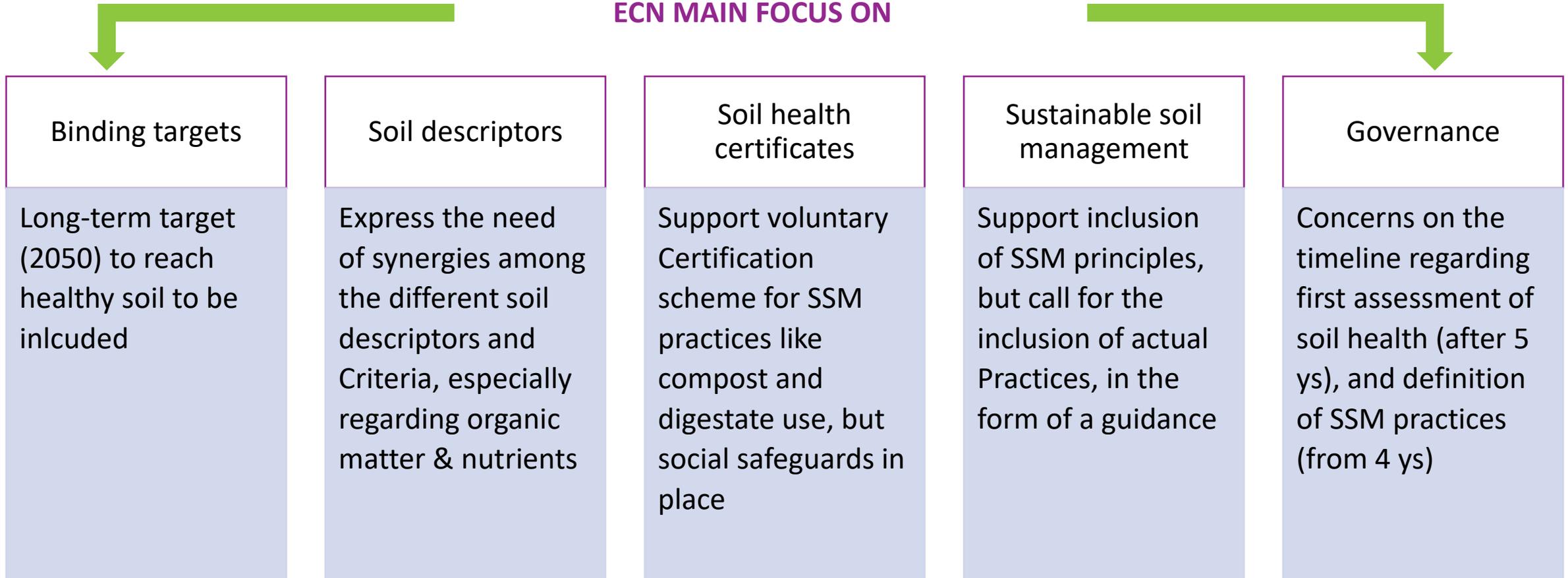
Against this background, the ECN supports the general objectives of the initiative from the European Commission, since the lack of a dedicated legislation on soil has had - and could still have - a negative effect on soil protection and governance. Despite this, we think there is room for changes and improvement on certain aspects addressed by the Soil Monitoring Law (SML), above all those which can highlight the need and foster the utilisation of organic materials for the benefit of soil in a circular economy perspective.

BINDING TARGETS

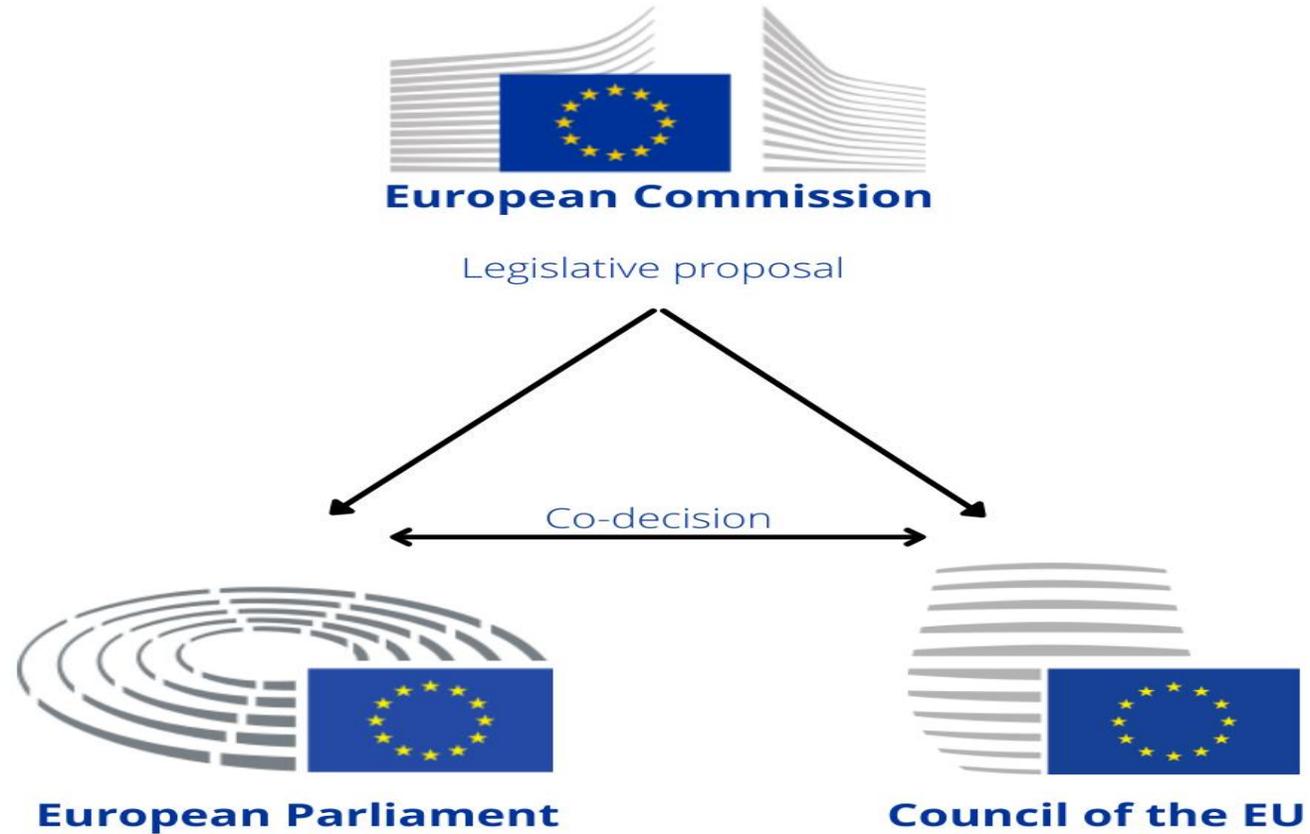
The ECN acknowledges the staged approach taken by the EC while drafting the proposal and recognizes that Member States (MSs) need time to set up monitoring and assessment

SOIL MONITORING LAW – ECN Feedback

ECN MAIN FOCUS ON



SOIL MONITORING LAW – State of play



SOIL MONITORING LAW – European Parliament

Commission's proposal for 'one out all out approach' → Soil is unhealthy where at least one of the criteria referred in part A & B of annex I is not met ('unhealthy soil').



European Parliament's proposal for 'soil ecological status approach' taking into account local conditions

Ecological status classification of soils	
1. High soil ecological status	
2. Good soil ecological status	
3. Moderate soil ecological status	
4. Degraded soils	
5. Critically degraded soils	



Ecological status classification of soils is improved within the following periods:

- (a) 10 years for critically degraded soils;
- (b) 6 years for degraded or moderate ecological status soils.

SOIL MONITORING LAW – European Parliament

Binding targets → The European Parliament proposed a legally binding 2050 target to have all European soils healthy, and the possibility to add intermediary targets after a first evaluation of the implementation of the Directive;

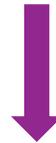
Soil district plans → Soil Districts are not obliged, but encouraged to establish coherent Soil District Plans setting up measures applicable on their territory to ensure improvement of soil ecological status, or to achieve improvement of soils in view achieving the 2050 target for healthy soils.

Sustainable Soil Management Toolbox → Introduction of a digital platform as an essential tool for sharing best practices across soil districts and Member States.

SOIL MONITORING LAW – What's next?

- European Parliament and EU Council will adopt their negotiating mandates next year:

EU Parliament Vote in ENVI Committee – 9 March Vote in Plenary – April	EU Council General approach foreseen in June
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FINAL NEGOTIATIONS will start in the next legislative terms with new Parliament and Council Presidency of Hungary.



Compost and Digestate for a Circular Bioeconomy



IMPROVING SOILS



RECYCLING FERTILISERS



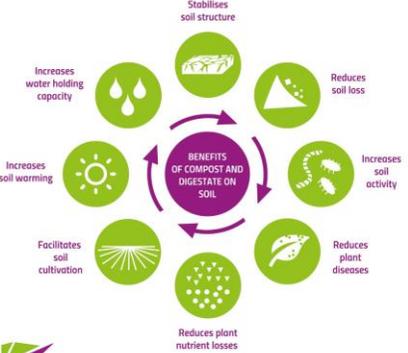
TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

www.compost-digestate.eu

ECN DATA REPORT 2022

COMPOST AND DIGESTATE FOR A CIRCULAR BIOECONOMY

Overview of Bio-Waste Collection, Treatment & Markets Across Europe



ECN
Compost and Digestate for a Circular Bioeconomy

<https://cutt.ly/D1ceQ2u>