

The Responsibility of Cities and Towns for the Protection of Soil

Together with air and water, soil forms the central basis of life on earth. However, with the increase in surface sealing activities, erosion and soil contamination, this essential natural resource is highly endangered on a local as well as a global scale. In Germany e.g. 1,3 million m² (equals 185 soccer fields) per day are consumed for building and infrastructure purposes. In Belgium 18 % of the surface (equals 500m² per person) was sealed in 1995.

According to these worrying facts the sustainable use of soil as well as land management are increasingly regarded as important objectives throughout Europe. As a consequence the European Commission is working on suggestions for a soil protection strategy within the 6th Environmental Action Programme. Moreover, a number of international organizations and initiatives, who are also co-organizers of this conference, are working on concepts to establish and improve "soil-awareness", as a prerequisite for effective soil protection.

In this context cities and towns are especially important as they are directly related to the management of local land. They have spatial planning tools at their disposal and can therefore play an important role the sustainable use of soil and land management. For this reason the Soil and Land Alliance of European Cities and Towns was founded on 24 October 2000 in Bolzano, Italy.

One of the goals of this new Alliance is to assist the local authorities to commit themselves to a sustainable use of land and soil in the future. All around Europe a number of towns have already become members or are showing interest in becoming members of the Alliance.

The 1st Annual International Conference of the Alliance will take place on 12 and 13 November 2001 in Osnabrück, Germany. It offers a forum to representatives of cities and towns and interested parties to exchange ideas and concepts for the sustainable use of land and soil. Also the Alliance's future plans will be presented.

You are cordially invited to the part in the 1st Annual International Conference of the Soil and Land Alliance in Osnabrück, Germany!

Dr. Walter Huber / Detlef Gerdts

Soil and Land Alliance of European Cities and Towns, Bolzano (I) / Osnabrück (D)

Dr. Luca Montanarella

European Soil Bureau, European Commission Joint Research Centre, Ispra (I)

Prof. Dr. Winfried E. H. Blum

International Union of Soil Sciences, Vienna (A)

Prof. Dr. Rabah Lahmar

The Soil Campaign, Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation, Paris (F)

Reto D. Jenny

Swiss Soil Association, Solothurn (CH)

Stephan Illert

Federal Association for Soil and Contaminated Sites, Berlin (D)

Gotelind Alber

Climate Alliance - Alianza del Clima, Frankfurt (D)

Hans-Jürgen Fip

Mayor of the host city of Osnabrück (D)

PROGRAMME

Monday, 12 November 2001

8:30 - 9:30

Registration of participants

9:30 - 10:00

Welcome reception and opening addresses

Hans-Jürgen Fip, Mayor of the Host City of Osnabrück (D)

Hama Arba Diallo, Assistant Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Detlef Gerdts, Director of the Department for Environmental Protection and Conference Chairman, Osnabrück (D)

10:00 - 10:45

Introduction

Climate protection through the protection of soil? - The importance of soil for the climate

Prof. Dr. Hartmut Graßl, Director of the Max-Planck-Institute for Meteorology and Chairman of the German Advisory Council on Global Changes, Hamburg (D)

Discussion

10:45 - 11:15

Coffee break

11:15 - 12:30

The protection of soil as a European task of local authorities

Perspectives of an enhanced EU action on soil in the context of the 6th Environmental Action Programme

Prudencio Perera, Director of Directorate B, Environmental Quality of Natural Resources, Environment Directorate General, European Commission, Brussels (B)

The initiative of Bolzano: Why Europe needs a Soil and Land Alliance of local authorities

Dr. Walter Huber, Director of the Agency for Environment and Maintenance of Industrial Health and Safety Standards, Province of Bolzano (I)

SOS² - The importance of the International Soil Campaign for local authorities and initiatives

Prof. Dr. Rabah Lahmar, Director of the International Soil Campaign, Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation, Paris (F)

Discussion

Chair

Dr. Luca Montanarella, Project Leader of the European Soil Bureau, European Commission Joint Research Centre, Ispra (I)

12:30 - 14:00

Lunch break at the Hotel Remarque

14:00 - 15:30

Soil awareness through public relations and civil participation

Soil awareness as a prerequisite for effective soil and land protection

Prof. Dr. Winfried E. H. Blum, Secretary-General of the International Union of Soil Sciences, Vienna (A)

The Soil Network of ICLEI (The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) - Highlighting tasks and perspectives

Ursula Heymann/Martina Pöppelbaum, Coordinator ICLEI Soils Network, Hanover (D)

Participation of non-governmental organizations - the Swiss approach to improve awareness and the popularisation of the topic of soil

Reto D. Jenny, Swiss Soil Association, Sent (CH)

Discussion

Chair

Dr. Wilhelm König, Director of the Soil Protection Department, Ministry for the Environment, Conservation, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, Düsseldorf (D)

15:30 - 16:30

Coffee break

16:30 - 18:00

Advantages of a European Soil and Land Alliance for members

The fascination of soil - why a region dedicates itself to the protection of soil

Patricia Mersinger, Director of the Urban Development and Community Involvement Department, Osnabrück (D)

Soil - an issue for a large city? Experiences and problems

Joachim Lorenz, Director of the Munich Environmental Council, Vice-Chairman of the Climate Alliance - Alianza del Clima, Munich (D)

The importance of municipal soil and land protection in the Netherlands

Sjoed Andela, Head of the Soil Protection and Remediation Department, Haarlem (NL)

Discussion

Chair

Meinfried Striegnitz, President of the Lower Saxony State Agency of Ecology, Hildesheim (D)

18:00 - 19:30

Visit to the new soil exhibition "Under World - The Univers under our Feet" at the Museum of Natural History "Am Schölerberg"

20:00 - 20:30

Champagne reception given by Hans-Jürgen Fip, Mayor of the City of Osnabrück in the townhall's "Hall of Peace"

from 20:30

Get-Together-Party in "Holling's Historical Pub" (registration required)

Tuesday, 13 November 2001

9:00 - 11:00

Land consumption and ground management

Land consumption in Germany and Central Europe - Structure, development trends and control devices

Dr. Fabian Dosch, Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning, Bonn (D)

Brownfield management in an old industrial region - The City of Derby, Great Britain

Michael Foote, Director of Corporate Services and Deputy Chief Executive, Derby (UK)

The greenfield versus the reuse of brownfield sites

Christoph Jabs, Department of Urban Development and Building, Leipzig (D)

The development of derelict land - The City of Dresden

Jens Seifert, Head of the Environmental Precaution Department, Dresden (D)

Discussion

Chair

Prof. Harald Burmeier, Vice President of the Federal Association for Soil and Contaminated Sites, Berlin (D)

11:00 - 11:30

Coffee break

11:30 - 13:00

Soil protection in rural areas - problems and solutions

Soil protection - Conflict between urban development and agricultural land use

Christelle Six, Sustainable Development Manager, Angers (F)

Sustainable land use in groundwater catchment areas - The EU-LIFE Project "Drastrup"

Klaus Kolind-Hansen, Head of the Department for Municipal Water Supply, Aalborg (DK)

Towns in Luxembourg and villages in Togo - Global approaches to the protection of soil and climate

Dietmar Mirkes, Climate Alliance, Action Solidarité Tiers Monde, Luxembourg (L)

Discussion

Chair

Prof. Dr. Alain Ruellan, former President of the International Union of Soil Sciences, Montpellier (F)

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch break at the Hotel Remarque

14:00 - 15:00

Outlook: What are the steps ahead for the Soil Alliance ?

The future of the Soil and Land Alliance - Proposals for the organisation, structure and upcoming activities

Werner Gruban / Helmer Honrich, Department of Environment and Public Health, Munich (D)

The Soil Alliance and the Climate Alliance - Alianza del clima: Future prospects of a close relationship

Gotelind Alber, Director of the Climate Alliance - Alianza del Clima, Frankfurt (D)

Discussion

Invitation and information on the next annual conference and farewell speech

Detlef Gerdts / Patricia Mersinger, Chairpersons, Osnabrück (D)

Chair

Dr. Martin Held, Protestant Academy Tutzing, Tutzing (D)

15:00 - 16:30

Assembly of members

PROGRAMME FOR RELATED EVENTS

Sunday, 11 November 2001, 17:00 - 20:00

Opening of the new soil exhibition "Under World - The Univers under our Feet" at the Museum of Natural History "Am Schölerberg"

Welcoming reception

Hans-Jürgen Fip, Mayor of the City of Osnabrück (D)

Fritz Brickwedde, General Secretary of the German Federal Foundation for the Environment, Osnabrück (D)

Key-note speech

Soil - A task for the future

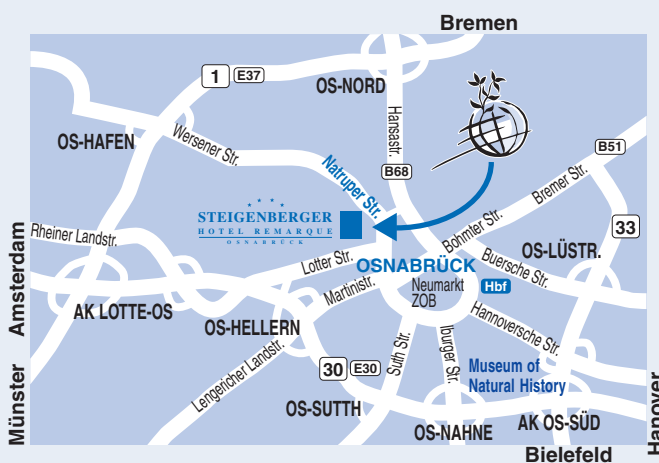
Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Winfried E. H. Blum, Secretary-General of the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS), Vienna (A)

Exhibition

Visit of the new soil exhibition "Under World - The Univers under our Feet"

Buffet and entertainment programme

Under the patronage of
Jürgen Trittin, Federal Environment Minister, Berlin (D)



Conference Venue

Steigenberger Hotel Remarque
Natruper-Tor-Wall 1
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On behalf of the Soil and Land Alliance of European Cities and Towns

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Simultaneous Translation Services

are provided in German, English and French

Registration

Registration is required by mail, fax or e-mail. Please use the attached registration card. The corresponding registration form can also be found on the internet: www.bodenbuendnis.org
On receipt of your registration form, you will be sent written confirmation, the bill and further information.

Registration Fee

150 DM / 77 Euro (taxes incl.)
(Includes conference papers, 2 lunch buffets and coffee/tea)

Get-Together-Party with Buffet Dinner (optional)

Please tick appropriately on the registration card.
Additional costs: 42 DM / 22 Euro (taxes incl.)

Exhibition and Poster Session

Space for information material and posters is limited. Please contact the conference organizer as early as possible.

Accommodation

There is a limited number of reserved rooms at favourable rates (50 - 100 Euro per night) in various hotels close-by the conference venue. A list of these accommodation facilities will be enclosed with the registration confirmation.

Deadline for registration is 15 October 2001



How to reach Osnabrück

by train:

Long distance trains from Amsterdam, Paris, Hanover, Berlin.
Intercity trains every hour from Basel, Frankfurt, Cologne, Düsseldorf, Bremen and Hamburg.
(train schedules in English: www.bahn.de)

by bus:

Bus line S 10 from the main station directly to *Rißmüllerplatz* (opposite hotel) or bus lines 31 and 33 to *Heger Tor* (200 m from the hotel).

by plane:

Daily flights from various international destinations to Münster/Osnabrück Airport (FMO). Airport Express Bus X150 19 times a day to Osnabrück, driving time: 45 minutes.
(flight information in English: www.flughafen-fmo.de)

by car:

from Bremen: A 1, exit Osnabrück-Nord
from Dortmund/Münster: A 1: Change at intersection Lotter Kreuz to A30 (Hanover), exit Osnabrück-Hellern
from Hanover: A 30, exit Osnabrück-Hellern
from Amsterdam: A 30, exit Osnabrück-Hellern

www.bodenbuendnis.org

1st Annual International Conference



**12 - 13 November 2001
in Osnabrück, Germany**

under the patronage of

Hama Arba Diallo, Assistant Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Organizer

Soil and Land Alliance of European Cities and Towns
Bolzano (I) / Osnabrück (D)

Co-Organizers

European Soil Bureau, European Commission Joint Research Centre, Ispra (I)
International Union of Soil Sciences, Vienna (A)
The Soil Campaign, Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation, Paris (F)
Swiss Soil Association, Solothurn (CH)
Federal Association for Soil and Contaminated Sites, Berlin (D)
Climate Alliance - Alianza del Clima, Frankfurt (D)

Hosting City

City of Osnabrück, Germany

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