



Seventh Session of the High-Level Panel of the European Decarbonisation Pathways Initiative

Friday, 9 March 2018

Venue: Berlaymont Building, Rue de la Loi 200, 1049 Brussels – Room S9

Narrative: To limit warming to below 1.5° or 2°C temperature rise we must stay within tight carbon budgets – the amount of CO₂ we can afford to add to the atmosphere. This means GHG emissions must be reduced to zero as fast as possible. It is highly likely that there will be a need to increase removals of CO₂ from the atmosphere to limit warming to 1.5°C or even 2°C. Research shows that the earth beneath our feet is holding up to three times as much carbon as is found in the atmosphere. More than half the carbon stored in soil is over 30 cm below the surface. If we can tap into its potential to suck even more carbon pollution out of the air, it would be a massive advantage.

While more studies looking at the potential of soil and its minerals as a carbon sink should be prioritized, proper management of the soil is needed if we are going to try and reduce the levels of CO₂ in the air. That means changing farming methods and other practices, such as the management of organic waste. High-quality compost and fertilizers produced through the implementation of proper management of the organic fraction of municipal waste help minimizing the erosion and land degradation. Hence separate bio-waste collection should be maximized as far as technically, environmentally and economically possible.

Agro-ecological practices that increase the quantity of organic matter in soil should be promoted. Processes and products which may have a negative impact on soil and water quality should be redesigned to fit with sustainable, circular value-chains to prevent soil degradation, and maximize carbon sink effects.

It is high time to re-think food production and dietary habits, assessing the crops CO₂ storage and generation, minimizing the use of synthetic chemicals and antibiotics and return nutrients to the soil.

The carbon accumulation in soil would continue 20 to 30 years after the implementation and maintaining of good practices. Therefore increasing soil carbon plays an important role in addressing the challenges of food security, adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.

The current session will address the above-mentioned issues with the aim to define research and innovation actions of strategic nature in order to enable European land to act as sink of greenhouse gases within the broader framework of sustainable development.

A G E N D A

Theme: European land, from source to sink (the role of soil, agriculture, land-use and the bio-based economy)	
09:00-09:30	Welcome coffee
09:30-09:40	<p>WELCOME REMARKS</p> <p>Andrea Tilche, <i>Head of Unit, DG RTD Climate Action and Earth Observation, the European Commission</i></p> <p>John Schellhuber, <i>Chair of the HLP</i></p>
09:40-10:00	<p>LAND USE, LAND USE CHANGE AND CLIMATE MITIGATION</p> <p>Doru-Leonard Irimie, <i>Policy Officer, DG RTD Bioeconomy Directorate, the European Commission, 'FOOD 2030 Research and Innovation Agenda'</i></p>
10:00-10:20	<i>Professor Jean-Francois Soussana, Scientific Director, INRA: 'Soils as carbon sinks and the '4per1000' initiative'</i>
10:20-10:40	<i>Professor Mark A. Sutton, NERC Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, 'Fertilizers and nitrogen compounds in soil' (video conference)</i>
10:40-11:00	<p><i>Professor Winfried Blum et al, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna, 'Carbon turnover processes in European soils and climate mitigation'</i></p> <p>Discussion moderated by Catia Bastioli Member of the HLP and the theme leader</p>
11:30-11:45	Coffee break
11:45-12:00	<p>BIOWASTE, COMPOST & CIRCULAR AGRI-PLASTICS</p> <p>Joan Marc Simon, <i>Executive Director, Zero Waste Europe'</i> and Enzo Favoino, <i>Scientific Coordinator, Zero Waste Europe 'Potential contribution of bio-waste and compost to tackle decarbonisation'</i></p>
12:00-12:15	<p>Bernard Le Moine, <i>President APE Europe, 'Circular agri-plastics, waste management for soil quality and decarbonisation'</i></p> <p>Discussion moderated by Catia Bastioli Member of the HLP and the theme leader</p>
12:45-13:45	Buffet lunch
13:45-15:00	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION: THE ROLE OF KEY 'ACTORS' IN LAND USE BASED DECARBONISATION</p> <p>PANELLISTS:</p> <p>Johan Desnoux, <i>Agronomic Director, Belchim Crop Protection</i></p> <p>Chiara Faenza, <i>Sustainability and Value Innovation, COOP Italia</i></p> <p>Pekka Pesonen, <i>Secretary General, Copa-Cogeca</i></p> <p>Jacob Hansen, <i>Director General, Fertilizers Europe</i></p> <p>David Newman, <i>President, World Biogas Association</i></p> <p>Moderated by the Chair</p>
15:00-15:15	<p>WRAP UP & NEXT STEPS</p> <p>Moderated by the Chair</p>
15:15	Closing the session