



High-Level Conference of the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU: “Soil for sustainable food production and ecosystem services” Programme for 5 – 6 October 2017, Tallinn

5 October 2017

08:15-09:00 Registration, Creative Hub (Kultuurikatel)

09:00-09:20 **Opening speeches:**

- President of the Republic of Estonia, **Mrs Kersti Kaljulaid**
- Minister of Rural Affairs of Estonia, **Mr Tarmo Tamm**

Moderator: **Professor Mr Klaus Töpfer** (Germany, Potsdam IASS)

09:30-10:00 **I presentation:** Soils and Global Challenges: How far can we prevent further soil degradation?

Prof Mr Rainer Horn (President of the IUSS)

10:00-10:30 **II presentation:** State of soils in Europe **Dr Mr Luca Montanarella** (European Commission, JRC)

10:30-11:00 **III presentation:** Conservation of soils within the EU policy: An overview of recent developments and policy perspectives **Mrs Claudia Olazabal** (Head of Unit at DG ENV.D1)

11:00-11:30 COFFEE BREAK

11:30-12:00 **IV presentation:** EU Soils in the context of the CAP (aid) **Mr Marko Gorban** (Deputy Secretary General for Agricultural and Rural Life Policies of the Ministry of the Rural Affairs of Estonia)

12:00-12:30 **V presentation:** Soil information – Global and regional examples **Prof Mr Peter de Ruiter** (Chair of ISRIC Managing Board)

12:30-12:45 **VI presentation:** Land use for sustainable food production and ecosystem services **Mr Roomet Sõrmus** (Member of the European Economic and Social Committee)

12:45-13:00 **VII presentation:** The EIB in the framework of the EU soil strategy **Mr Pim van Ballekom** (Vice-President of the European Investment Bank)

13:00-14:00 LUNCH

14:00-14:20 **VIII presentation:** Soil awareness and the need for communication skills **Prof Mrs Gabriele Broll** (Osnabrück University)





14:20-14:40 **IX presentation:** The use of soil data for decision-making (Estonia's example) **Prof Mr Alar Astover** (Estonian University of Life Sciences)

14:40-15:00 **X presentation:** Experience and opinion of the agricultural producer, **Mr Jaak Läänemets**

15:00-15:30 COFFEE BREAK

15:30-16:00 **XI presentation:** **Commissioner Mr Phil Hogan** (European Commission, DG AGRI)

16:00-17:00 **Ministers' Panel discussion:** Perspectives of the EU and national policy to achieve sustainable use of agricultural soils

- **Do we need closer common action on soil policy at the EU level and how should we go forward?**

In 2014 the 7th Environment Action Programme recognized that soil degradation is a serious problem in the EU. It sets a goal of ensuring that land within the EU is managed sustainably by 2020 and guides Member States to increase efforts in reducing soil degradation. Knowing recent trends, it seems quite unrealistic that by following current practices this will be a successful long-term perspective. Currently, only a few EU Member States have a specific national legislation on soil protection. Further action is needed in this field.

- **How can the EU CAP contribute to the sustainable use of agricultural soils in a better way in the future?**

Agricultural soils are often degraded in an invisible way due to management practices, which are not suitable for specific conditions. Up until now, there have only been a few efforts to include targeted soil protection measures in the national Rural Development Programmes under the CAP. Considering local soil and land use specifics, soil targeted measures of the future CAP may have a large role in supporting soil protection together with sustainable intensification of competitive agriculture. There is a further need for better solutions to help improve the condition of agricultural soils, e.g. under greening measures and cross-compliance.

- **How can we contribute to the sustainable use of agricultural soils at national level? Best practices from cross-border cooperation.**

17:00-17:30 **Time for interviews** (on prior agreement)

6 October 2017

09:00-12:30 Field trip for delegates (Kostivere, Harju County)

The field trip will introduce the diversity of soils and sustainable crop farming practices in the region. Participants will be shown how site-specific soil information is collected and used for management decisions. Integral use of soil data, information technology and modern farming will be presented. Participants can take part in several practical exercises with soil and agricultural machinery.

Dress code: Casual with comfortable shoes. During autumn, temperatures may varie between locations. We recommend you to have your jacket with you.





Practical information

Venue

The conference will be held at the Tallinn Creative Hub, [Kultuurikatel](#) (Põhja pst 27a, Tallinn). Kultuurikatel is the venue where all ministerial meetings during the Estonian presidency of the EU Council will be held. Historically it used to be the Tallinn city central power station, which began operating in 1913 and closed in 1979. Nowadays it is a creative centre hosting a variety of cultural events and activities focusing on the creative industry.

Official photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/eu2017ee/albums>

Further information

Organisational topics

Ms. Annemari Paas

Ministry of Rural Affairs / Deputy Head of European Union Affairs Department
+372 6256220
annemari.paas@agri.ee

Media contacts

Ms. Annikky Lamp

Permanent Representation of Estonia to the EU / Spokesperson (Coreper I)
+32 491921300 +32 24307089
annikky.lamp@mfa.ee

Ms. Kertu Kärk

Ministry of Rural Affairs / Spokesperson
+372 56915287 +372 6256152
kertu.kark@agri.ee

General information about Estonia and Tallinn

For more information on attractions and sights in Tallinn and Estonia please go to:

<https://www.visittallinn.ee/eng>

<https://visitestonia.com/en>

We look forward to welcoming you to Tallinn!

