



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
The Director-General

ENV/FFH/xx(2022)NNNNNN

Subject: Save Soil at the United Nations COP 15 Meeting in Côte d'Ivoire

Dear Petitioner,

Healthy soils are a priority for the EU. Soils are the foundation for 95% of the food we eat and for other essential ecosystem services such as clean water, biodiversity and climate regulation. Soils also host more than 25% of the world's biodiversity and are the largest terrestrial carbon pool on the planet. However, 70% of soils in the EU are not in a good condition, making us more vulnerable to food insecurity and extreme weather events. The mismanagement of land resources - soil, water, and biodiversity - represents a threat to humanity and the planet. The EU has taken action to tackle it through different initiatives:

In November 2021, the Commission adopted the new Soil strategy to have all European soils restored, resilient, and adequately protected by 2050. To ensure that **by 2050, all soil ecosystems** are in a healthy condition, the strategy aims to increase the soil carbon in agricultural land, combat desertification and restore degraded land and soil. Furthermore, the Commission is working on a proposal for a Soil Health Law that will allow for meeting the objectives of the EU Soil Strategy and ensure an optimal provision of multiple ecosystem services threatened by soil degradation (food, biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation, water recycling).

At the last Conference of the Parties of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the EU strongly supported sustainable land management and land restoration as a proven and cost-effective strategy that offers multiple pathways towards an inclusive, sustainable recovery and resilient economies, societies and ecosystems and for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. An example of large-scale restoration efforts supported by the EU with significant positive impact on livelihoods and sustainable development is the Great Green Wall initiative.

Yours faithfully,

e-signed

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