EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 30.9.2025
COM(2025) 596 final

2023/0232 (COD)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

pursuant to Article 294(6) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

concerning the

position of the Council on the adoption of a Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience (Soil Monitoring Law)

2023/0232 (COD)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

pursuant to Article 294(6) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

concerning the

position of the Council on the adoption of a Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience (Soil Monitoring Law)

1. BACKGROUND

Date of transmission of the proposal to the European Parliament and to the Council (document COM(2023) 416 final – 2023/0232 COD):	5 July 2023.
Date of the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee:	25 October 2023.
Date of the position of the European Parliament, first reading:	10 April 2024.
Date of transmission of the amended proposal:	N/A.
Date of adoption of the position of the Council:	29 September 2025.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE PROPOSAL FROM THE COMMISSION

The objective of the proposal is to put in place a solid and coherent soil monitoring framework for all soils across the EU and to continuously improve soil health in the Union with the view to achieve healthy soils by 2050 and maintain soils in healthy condition, so that they can supply multiple ecosystem services at a scale sufficient to meet environmental, societal and economic needs, prevent and mitigate the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss, increase the resilience against natural disasters and for food security and that soil contamination is reduced to levels no longer considered harmful to human health and the environment.

3. COMMENTS ON THE POSITION OF THE COUNCIL

The position of the Council, as adopted at first reading, fully reflects the political agreement reached between the European Parliament and the Council on 10 April 2025. The Commission supports this agreement, the main points of which are set out below.

- Soil health monitoring: the co-legislators agreed to build on the Commission's proposal by introducing common analytical and sampling methodologies, a common list of soil health descriptors and criteria for healthy soils. They agreed to go beyond the Commission's proposal by requiring monitoring of additional soil contaminants (PFAS, pesticides and their metabolites) and a more demanding common soil biodiversity descriptor. Member States are allowed to limit the number of points at which these contaminants and the soil biodiversity descriptor are monitored. This

compromise increases the value of soil monitoring while maintaining cost-efficiency and keeping the burden low.

- Soil health assessment: the co-legislators agreed to set non-binding sustainable target values, reflecting the long-term aspirational objective of the Directive to have healthy soils by 2050, and operational trigger values to determine when support from Member States is necessary, to be established by Member States. The compromise keeps a fine balance between the long-term objective of healthy soil and the need to prioritise short- and medium-term measures to improve soil health.
- Soil resilience: the co-legislators agreed to move away from the concept of sustainable soil management towards support for soil health and resilience. They agreed to remove provisions that may imply obligations that Member States could pass onto soil managers, and to delete the annex listing sustainable soil management principles. A link between soil health assessment and support to soil resilience was kept based on the notion of operational trigger values. This compromise keeps the requirements that allow the transition towards healthy soils to be set in motion, and soil resilience overall to be increased.
- Principles to mitigate the impacts of land take: the co-legislators agreed to shift the focus from all forms of land take to only the most visible and impactful types of land take, soil sealing and soil removal, which are also the easiest to monitor, including remotely. The co-legislators further clarified that these provisions are effort-based, would not impact national competence on spatial planning, do not require new permitting procedures and should not prevent permitting of new activities. These provisions clarify the margin of flexibility that Member States have when implementing these mitigation principles.
- Timeframe for implementing the Directive: the co-legislators agreed to extend the deadlines for several obligations. These extensions provide sufficient time to implement the obligations of the Directive and alleviate the administrative and financial burden intensity through a gradual implementation approach.
- Support from the Commission: the co-legislators required the Commission to provide support, assistance and capacity building to Member States. In particular, they requested the Commission to provide support to Member States, within very short deadlines, to transpose and implement numerous provisions of the Directive by providing non-binding documents and scientific tools. The support from the Commission will help the implementation of the Directive. However, the Commission underlines that this requires significant human and financial resources.

4. CONCLUSION

The Commission supports the results of the inter-institutional negotiations and can therefore accept the Council's position at first reading.