

**You are invited to attend the**  
**Launch of the EASAC policy report on**  
**“Opportunities for soil sustainability in Europe”**

*26 September 2018, 12:00 – 14:00, Palace of the Academies,  
Rue Ducale 1, Brussels, Rubens Room (Main Building)*

Soils provide numerous essential services in terrestrial ecosystems, ranging from the support of plant growth in agriculture and forestry to moderation of flood risks, water purification, large-scale carbon storage, and support of biodiversity. However, despite soils' essential roles, they are threatened by sealing, compaction, reductions in quality and organic-carbon content, and erosion, and insufficiently included in sustainability planning in the EU. A multidisciplinary group of European experts has examined the implications of recent scientific research for integrated policy solutions towards ensuring the sustainability of Europe's soils, and identified many opportunities for policy-makers to safeguard this valuable resource for the benefit of the EU's citizens.





**Programme:**

*[12:00 light lunch available]*

**12:30 – 12:40**

‘The European Academies’ Science Advisory Council (EASAC) – who we are and what we do’

**EASAC President Professor Thierry Courvoisier**

**12:40 – 13:00**

‘Soils study: process and results’

**Project leader Professor Wim van der Putten, Netherlands Institute of Ecology and  
Wageningen University and Research**

**13:00 – 13:15**

Policy implications from EASAC’s perspective

**Professor Michael Norton, Director of EASAC Environment Programme**

**13:15** Panel discussion with

Representative of **European Commission DG ENVI**, Land Use & Management Unit, D1 –  
Josiane Masson, Team Leader “Soil Policy”

Representative of the **European Environment Agency** – Dr Rainer Baritz, Project Manager “Soil  
Assessments”

Representative of the **World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF)** – Dr Jabier Ruiz, Senior Policy  
Officer, Agriculture and Sustainable Food Systems

Representative of **COPA-COGECA** – Evangelos Koumentakos, Senior Policy Advisor for Climate  
Change, Air, Soil, Waste, Emissions

**13:45** Open discussion of the panel with the audience

**14:00** End of event *[followed by coffee]*