

# **Probleme des nachhaltigen Bodenschutzes in Europa : Entwicklung, Eckpunkte, Stand der Diskussion und Perspektiven**

**Von Professor Dr.-Ing. habil. Yeong Heui Lee**

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## **Abstract**

### **Problems in sustainable soil protection in Europe - development, key points, state of discussion and perspectives**

Multifarious problems in European soil protection have been brought into the focus of science and politics in the European Commission soil protection concept, as well as in controversial discussion about the Soil Framework Directive in European Union bodies and member states. Basic principles of the urgently required Community legal regulation are - apart from the guidelines in the Treaty establishing the European Community - numerous competent international and national scientific voices, as well as corresponding preliminary decisions by European bodies and recommendations by international institutions. Enactment of the Soil Framework Directive would have been the obligatory consequence.

With the Soil Framework Directive, a frequently bemoaned lacuna in European environmental law dedicated to soil protection would be remedied, and the issue of soil protection, which until now has been put off, would be placed on an equal footing with other matters in environ-

mental law. A regulation instrument would also be created in the form of a soil framework directive, with which recommendations in the Rio Agenda 21 and the mandate of the Sixth Environment Action Programme of the European Community relating to soil protection would be complied with, aiming to make a contribution to implementing the sustainable development principle and protecting natural resources in the framework of guaranteeing sustainability oriented soil use.

In the symposium that was held in Berlin on January 21 and 22, essentials, i.e. key questions in sustainable soil protection were to be discussed and elaborated by a competent international body of experts, including relevant political decision makers from multidisciplinary backgrounds. Despite certain differing viewpoints, the results of the symposium were in essence unanimous: Faced with the current situation, the Soil Framework Directive is urgently needed. Requirements of the common good would be disregarded, were it not for a clear legal regulation which would lead member states to embed adequate soil protection within their legal systems or, as appropriate, to improve its formulations and to implement it in practice.