



Common Forum Autumn meeting 2022



Flanders
State of
the Art

EmConSoil network – activities and results of WG PFAS meeting

Session 4: Network initiatives

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WE MAKE
TOMORROW
BEAUTIFUL

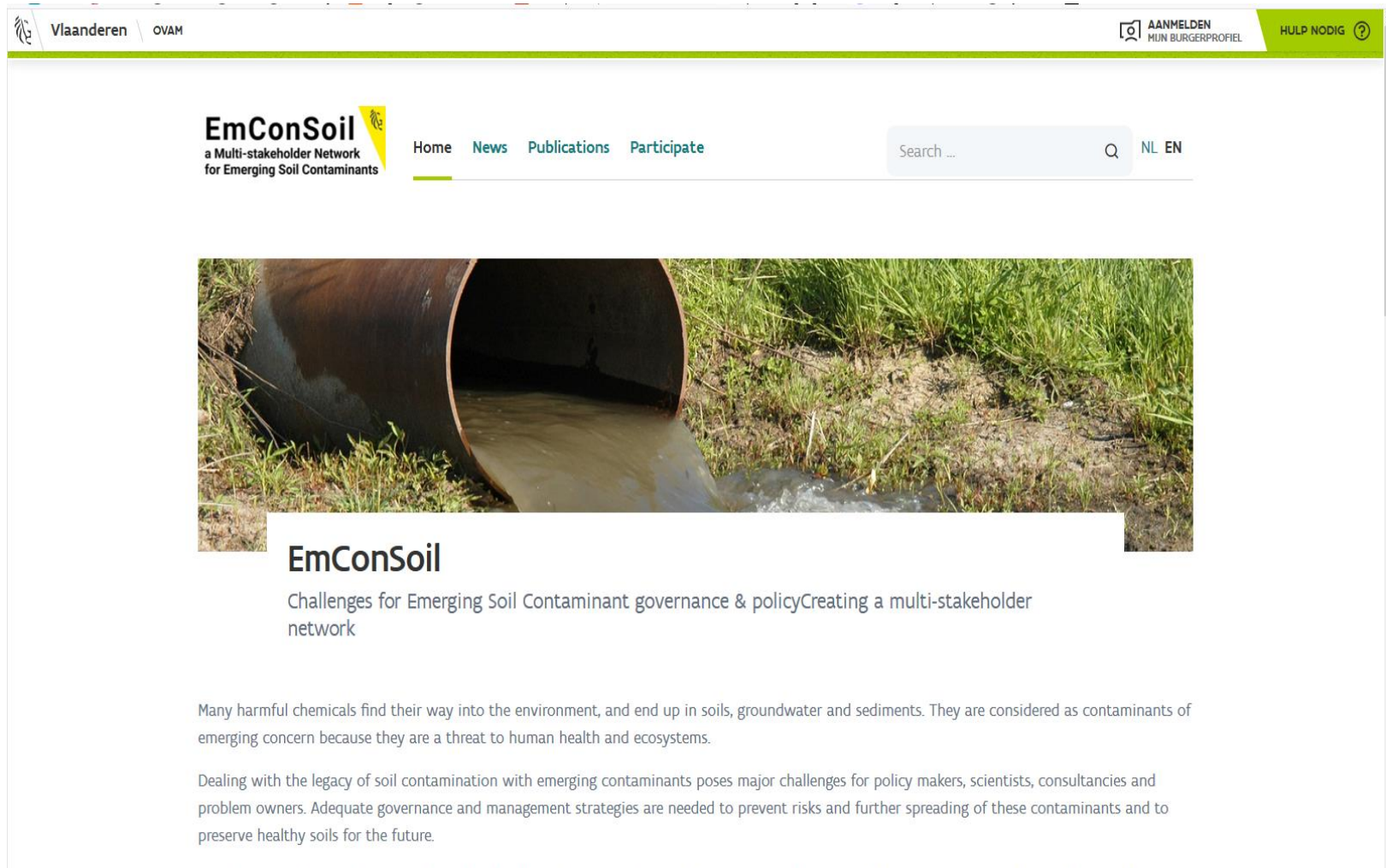
OVAM

Content

1. **Activities network EmConSoil**
2. **Results of WG PFAS meeting 17 november**
3. **Future initiatives**

1. Activities EmConSoil

https://ovam-english.vlaanderen.be/nl/web/emconsoil



The screenshot shows the homepage of the EmConSoil website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo of Flanders (Vlaanderen) and OVAM on the left, and links for 'AANMELDEN MIJN BURGERPROFIEL' and 'HULP NODIG' on the right. Below the navigation bar, the EmConSoil logo is displayed, followed by a multi-stakeholder network description. A search bar and language options (NL, EN) are also present. The main content area features a large image of a pipe discharging water into a grassy area. Below the image, the title 'EmConSoil' is followed by a subtitle: 'Challenges for Emerging Soil Contaminant governance & policyCreating a multi-stakeholder network'. The main text discusses the environmental impact of emerging contaminants and the need for a multi-stakeholder network to address the challenges.


Vlaanderen | OVAM

AANMELDEN MIJN BURGERPROFIEL HULP NODIG ?

EmConSoil
a Multi-stakeholder Network
for Emerging Soil Contaminants

Home News Publications Participate

Search ... Q NL EN



EmConSoil

Challenges for Emerging Soil Contaminant governance & policyCreating a multi-stakeholder network

Many harmful chemicals find their way into the environment, and end up in soils, groundwater and sediments. They are considered as contaminants of emerging concern because they are a threat to human health and ecosystems.

Dealing with the legacy of soil contamination with emerging contaminants poses major challenges for policy makers, scientists, consultancies and problem owners. Adequate governance and management strategies are needed to prevent risks and further spreading of these contaminants and to preserve healthy soils for the future.

Network introduction

- ▶ **Knowledge sharing and addressing challenges**
- ▶ **Established 2019**
- ▶ **What stakeholders does the network represent**

Goals and topics

- 1) Promote/improve know-how about emerging substances and their remediation and policy challenges
- 2) Gather information in a structured way (e.g. wiki-format - newsletters)
- 3) Bring together expertise from different sectors and stakeholders: intermezzos - webinars - working groups
- 4) Organise debate - taking a representative stand - weighing in on international policy

Publication:

CHALLENGES FOR EMERGING SOIL CONTAMINANT GOVERNANCE & POLICY Creating a multi-stakeholder network

Other publications

<https://ovam-english.vlaanderen.be/nl/web/emconsoil/publications>

Recent activities



- <https://www.2mpact.be/nl/ensor-2022/ensor-material-page-2022>

Recent activities – 4 webinars

| Date/time | Subject | Lecturer |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| November 10: 13 – 14 CET | PFAS sampling: challenges and recommendations A new method for monitoring the mobility of PFAS in groundwater plumes | AECOM iFlux |
| November 17: 13 - 14 CET | PFAS analysis in soil, water, air, blood and food | Eurofins /SGS |
| November 24: 13 - 14 CET | Treatment of PFAS contaminated rinse water Remediation of PFAS contaminated soils – a brief literature review | Cornelsen Umwelttechnik GmbH RSK |
| December 1: 13 - 14 CET | PFAS-related risk activities: inventory and prioritisation | OVAM / Consultes |

2. Results of WG PFAS meeting 17 november

Agenda PFAS meeting

- Welcome
- CF PFAS-team refocusing - introduction (team leaders)
- Draft outline & envisaged topics
 - o Presenting the proposal
 - o Q & A
 - o discussion
 - o conclusions
- Cooperation NICOLE PFAS WG
 - o Proposal for questions to be discussed in Athens (NICOLE)
 - o Discussion
 - o Recommendations
- Country updates
- ▶ Next actions & meetings

Proposal working program

▶ PFAS team – Work program (6th Secretariat period 2022 – 24)

▶ *BACKGROUND*

▶ In the last few decades, an increasing number of harmful chemicals have found their way into the environment. Many of these emerging contaminants, such as for example per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), are found in soils, groundwater and sediments, and are a threat to human health and ecosystems.

▶ As recognized in the European Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, pollution from PFAS can cause severe and, in most cases, long-lasting environmental damage, and have adverse health impacts on citizens. Many Member States have to deal with this type of persistent pollution.

Proposal working program

▶ PFAS team – Work program (6th Secretariat period 2022 – 24)

▶ *BACKGROUND*

- ▶ PFAS is for example present in soil and groundwater all over the Flemish Region, and doubtlessly not only there. It is detected on locations where a source is present but also on locations considered to be unsuspecting. Regional land contamination due to diffuse inputs as well as contaminated sites (point source inputs) causing significant risks have been reported from several regions and European countries, like e.g. Denmark, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands and Norway.
- ▶ In consequence, we are facing rather diffuse and complex patterns for PFAS . Backtracking towards a source and identifying the origin of which we are not always able to identify. This poses challenges for our environmental policy, as it is often based on tackling pollution at source (emission reduction), prevention, and restoration (remediation of polluted sites...).

Proposal working program

▶ PFAS team – Work program (6th Secretariat period 2022 – 24)

▶ *INTENTIONS*

▶ The PFAS-team at COMMON FORUM likes to express the importance and need to initiate exchanges of views on the way forward to ensure health safety and environmental quality, good soil health and groundwater status, safe soil reuse and legal certainty.

Proposal working program

▶ PFAS team – Work program (6th Secretariat period 2022 – 24)

▶ *NEEDS*

▶ There is a substantial need for exchange of information/experience on the topics of the inventory, the investigation and the remediation of soils (potentially) containing PFAS. Since a lot of us are gathering knowledge rather fast, we sometimes lack information on their effectiveness. That is why we must share our experiences. Furthermore, we also like to mention the issues relating to the reuse of soil and soil materials.

Proposal working program

▶ PFAS team – Work program (6th Secretariat period 2022 – 24)

▶ *TOPICS*

▶ We propose to address/exchange on the following topics within the PFAS team:

- determining the activities that can lead to contamination of the soil or groundwater with PFAS;
- drawing up inventories of potentially contaminated soils with PFAS;
- the investigation of the inventoried PFAS sites;
- determining background values and trigger values for PFAS;

Proposal working program

▶ PFAS team – Work program (6th Secretariat period 2022 – 24)

▶ *TOPICS*

▶ We propose to address/exchange on the following topics within the PFAS team:

- performing risk assessments for PFAS;
- remediation of PFAS-contaminated soils;
- investigation and approach for diffuse contamination of PFAS;
- trigger values for reuse of soil and soil materials;
- exchange with the PFAS working group of NICOLE.

Proposal working program

- ▶ PFAS team – Work program (6th Secretariat period 2022 – 24)
- ▶ *PFAS-team@COMMON.FORUM*
- ▶ Shared leadership: Jörg FRAUENSTEIN (UBA; DE)
Griet VAN GESTEL & Johan CEENAEME (OVAM;
Flanders/BE)
- ▶ Assistance: Dietmar Müller-Grabherr (CF-Secretariat)

Discussion and conclusions

Meetings every 3/4 months

Topic 'sediments'

Document sharing platform

Finalize the working program before the end of the year

Invitation for other CF interested parties

Next meeting: 22 March 2023 (9:30)

3. Future initiatives

Future initiatives

ENSOr 5 during the Belgian presidency of the EU – spring 2024

Possible cooperation with SOILveR

Webinars EmConSoil + Newsletters

Thank you for your attention

OVAM
Public Waste agency of Flanders

www.ovam.be

EmConSoil:
www.ovamenglish.be/emconsoil

