Selected Newly Added Documents march 2008 on EUGRIS: platform for European contaminated soil and water information:

EUGRIS now has a new easier to use format, which I hope you will find the time to have a quick look at. 36 resources, events projects and news items were added to EUGRIS 1 –24 March 2008. These can be viewed at: http://www.eugris.info/whatsnew.asp
Then select the month and year for the updates you are interested in

Resources added include this selection:

European Commission - DG Joint Research Centre Institute for Environment and Sustainability , 2008
Google Earth Files for the European Soil Database
The public user can download all the 73 Google Earth files related to the European Soil Database and use them for his own purposes. KML files are very often distributed as KMZ files, which are zipped KML files with a .kmz extension. When a KMZ file is unzipped, a single 'doc.kml' is found along with any overlay and icon images referenced in the KML. The KMZ files are between 5-20 MB (it may time some time to download the file and to open with Google Earth) and cover the European Union (27 Countries) extension.

Zhang, C. Fay, D., 2008 (Ireland)
Towards a National Soil Database
The Irish National Soil Database encompasses soil geochemistry including point and spatial distribution maps of major nutrients, major elements, essential trace elements, trace elements of special interest and minor elements. In addition, this study has generated a National Soil Archive, comprising bulk soil samples and a nucleic acids archive each of which represent a valuable resource for future soils research in Ireland. The geographical coherence of the geochemical results was considered to be predominantly underpinned by underlying parent material and glacial geology. Other factors such as soil type, land use, anthropogenic effects and climatic effects were also evident. The coherence between elements, as displayed by multivariate analyses, was evident in this study. Examples included strong relationships between Co, Fe, As, Mn and Cu. This study applied large-scale microbiological analysis of soils for the first time in Ireland and in doing so also investigated microbial community structure in a range of soil types in order to determine the relationship between soil microbiology and chemistry.

Health Protection Agency, 2008 (UK)
Benzo[a]pyrene– Use of Excess Lifetime Cancer Risk Estimates
Benzo[a]pyrene (B[a]P) is a polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) that is the product of both
natural and anthropogenic processes. In addition, it is environmentally persistent and is therefore
a common soil contaminant. When calculating site assessment criteria for contaminated land, it has become common practice among some contaminated land consultants to state that the index dose represents a categorical
risk of 1x10-5 (1 additional cancer per 100000 people), and then set a separate benchmark for
unacceptable risk at 1x10-4 (1 additional cancer per 10000 people). The index dose is then

multiplied by 10, so that it nominally represents that level of risk. However, given uncertainties in techniques used to produce ELCR values as well as the position of COC, the HPA cannot support this approach or any deviation from the authoritative index dose

<u>SNOWMAN Project - PERSPEC: Perspectives on mobilisation of prioritised contaminants in soil.</u>

The aim of the PERSPEC project is to compile current knowledge on how atmospheric and hydrological processes influence the mobilisation of contaminants to, within, and from soils. The focus is on priory substances according to the European water framework directive (WFD) such as metals (e.g. mercury, lead and aluminium), and persistent organic pollutants (POPs; e.g. polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), brominated diphenylethers, chlorophenols, chlorobenzenes, PCBs and dioxins).

Metals and organic contaminants have in the past often been studied separately, mainly due to their different chemical properties. However, in the environment they coexist and are subject to the same environmental processes. By including both metals and organic contaminants in the same research framework, differences as well as similarities in their environmental fate and response to climate factors will become apparent, and different scenarios may be explored.