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Dear Colleagues,

Thanks to Christian ANDERSEN and his team at Danish Regions, the international meeting week beginning of October 2017 in Copenhagen was encouraging with new ideas and contacts, all in all a big success.

Moreover it is to acknowledge Dominique DARMENDRAIL, not only running the COMMON FORUM Secretariat for 9 years but as well carrying ICCL as our global umbrella network onwards.

To Dominique: You did a incredible job keeping international information and knowledge exchange going – for all your efforts, your positive attitude in discussions and keeping personal relationships, on behalf of COMMON FORUM and ICCL members: many thanks, vielen Dank, MERCI!

Now by December 2017 the take-over of the COMMON FORUM secretariat gets completed with the transfer of the homepage, which is now hosted by Environment Agency Austria. Looking forward to 2018 we feel exited to meet you again in Namur (Wallonia, Belgium) for discussing the future. Europe is under transition, which was reflected by the European Commission by envisaging 5 scenarios how the Union could develop. The UN Sustainable Development Goals take the time horizon until 2030. New ideas and concepts in Contaminated Land Management might get necessary. The upcoming years are the window-in-time to prepare our network for contributing in time.

Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

Martha, Dietmar and Irene



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CF Secretariat – the new team at Environment Agency Austria (from left to right): Irene Montag (administration), Dietmar Müller-Grabherr (General Secretary), Martha Wepner-Banko (assistance)

## NEXT CF MEETING IN NAMUR, BE

SAVE THE DATE!

### **Our next COMMON FORUM Network meeting**

will be held in Namur, Belgium,  
23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2018

At the time being proposed key topics for the meeting are:

1. Diffuse pollution
2. Risk management – Human health risk assessment for enhancing risk-informed decisions
3. Do we need transition? – discussing visions, mission, tasks and future needs of COMMON FORUM

Back-to-back WG “Soil as a resource” will convene on Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Preparatory work on the program will start by January 2018. With regard to diffuse pollution a questionnaire is under preparation. Results of this survey shall be reported and discussed at the Namur-meeting.

COMMON FORUM members are invited to raise further possible topics of interest.

## COMMON FORUM / ICCL MEETING IN COPENHAGEN, DK

Danish Regions hosted and organised an international meeting week in Copenhagen (October 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017):

- COMMON FORUM (October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017)
- ICCL (October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 2017)
- Joint ICCL-NICOLE Conference “Groundwater Management on Contaminated Sites” (National museum; October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017)

Thanks to COMMON FORUM members, colleagues from Australia, Asia and in particular South America for their participation and lively discussions.

[CF meeting presentations are now available.](#)

## COMMON FORUM MEMBERS TURNOVER

Recent changes / new members of representations within the COMMON FORUM:

From EC:

- EEA - September 2017:
  - **Rainer Baritz** to replace **Geertrui Louwagie**  
European Environment Agency – Land systems
- EC - September 2017:
  - **Bavo Peeters** moved from OVAM to the  
European Commission, working as Seconded National Expert with the soil team (Directorate-General for Environment)

From Countries:

- Italy – Antonella? & Marco Falconi
- Spain – September 2017:
  - Welcome to new CF member,  
**Paloma López-Izquierdo Botín**  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment
- Spain – October 2017:
  - Welcome to new CF member,  
**Núria Boget Lluçia**  
Waste Agency of Catalonia - Department of Territory and Sustainability
- Finland – October 2017:
  - Welcome to new CF member,  
**Nina Lehtosalo**  
Ministry of the Environment
- Belgium - Flanders – October 2017:
  - **Johan Ceenaeme** to replace **Eddy van Dyck**  
OVAM, Public Waste Agency of Flanders (Belgium)
- Estonia – October 2017:
  - **Olav Ojala** to replace **Katrin Valjataga**  
Ministry of the Environment of Estonia

## COMMON FORUM SUPPORTS IMPLEMENTING INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Following discussions starting at the Oslo-meeting (October, 2016) COMMON FORUM decided to follow preparatory work in implementing International Conventions by “mirror groups”. Recently started processes for establishing Contaminated Land Management Guidance documents with regard to the “Minamata Convention” and the “Stockholm Convention” shall be supported.

At the time being the members of this CF mirror group are:

### “Mercury/Minamata mirror group”

BELGIUM (Wallonia & Flanders)

- Esther GOIDTS (SPW)
- Johan CEENAEME (OVAM)

FRANCE

- Valerie GUERIN (BRGM)

#### GERMANY

- Andreas BIEBER (BMUB)

#### AUSTRIA

- Gernot DÖBERL (EAA)

#### “POP’s mirror group”

#### FINLAND

- Jussi REINIKAINEN

#### LUXEMBURG

- Sophie CAPUS

#### AUSTRIA

- Martin WEISGRAM

In her role as assistance to the COMMON FORUM secretariat my colleague Martha WEPNER-BANKO will support and coordinate the mirror group.

Furthermore Antoine BILLARD and Dietmar MÜLLER-GRABHERR will follow the mirror groups as “observing members”

## WHAT'S NEW ON COMMON FORUM WEBSITE?

### COMMON FORUM Questionnaires

#### Risk assessment and Analytical Uncertainties

- The COMMON FORUM website section about Questionnaires has been implemented with answers to a Basque Country questionnaire about ‘Do we need to take into account analytical uncertainties when comparing contaminant concentrations with water or soil quality standards?’

This document compiles the answers received from of 8 countries (9 regions). The following questions are addressed:

- Do you consider the analytical uncertainty in comparing contaminant concentrations with water or soil quality standards?
- In case you do, how is the comparison done?
- If the methodology for the comparison is included in technical guidelines, laws, etc., could you provide the reference?

### COMMON FORUM New address – new secretary

The COMMON FORUM secretary has a new email address and new contact details!

COMMON FORUM Secretariat  
c/o Environment Agency Austria  
Spittelauer Lände 5  
1090 Vienna - AUSTRIA

email: CF-Secretariat@umweltbundesamt.at

## NEWS FROM EUROPEAN COMMISSION

World-Soil-Day 2017 – Land, Soils and Science

December 4 - 6, 2017 – Brussels, Belgium

This event was organized by the European Commission funded Coordination and Support Action INSPIRATION ([www.inspiration-h2020.eu](http://www.inspiration-h2020.eu)) and the Soils4EU service contract to DG Environment. This celebration of World Soil Day was devoted to the topical research needs for soil and land use. The event presented and discussed state-of-the-art and pressing gaps in European research on land and soils from the perspectives of policy makers, funders, end-users of research and scientists.

SOILS4EU workshop on soil ecosystem services and on the transboundary effects of soil degradation.

These workshops were part of the celebration of the World Soil Day 2017 and of the final conference of the H2020 project INSPIRATION on 4-6 December. Both topics were presented during the plenary opening session of the conference on 4 December 2017. At the workshop two in-depth reports on the following subjects were presented and discussed: a) Transboundary effects of soil degradation in the EU and b) Soil ecosystems and their services.

<http://www.worldsoilday2017.eu/>



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Updated Inventory and Assessment of Soil Protection Policy Instruments in EU Member States

The report lists the existing **soil protection policies and measures at the EU and Member State level** and identifies key gaps in protection with respect to soil threats and functions of the Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection. The report developed an inventory of existing and upcoming policy instruments compiling this information in a collaborative Wiki web platform. The report carried out a cross – policy analysis, examining the coverage of soil threats and functions in EU policies and the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats represented by existing policy. Furthermore, you can find an analysis how the Member State instruments across the EU – 28-complement and address the gaps identified in the EU legislation. Finally the report discussed current and future policy initiatives with experts at Member State and EU level.

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/pdf/Soil\\_inventory\\_report.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/pdf/Soil_inventory_report.pdf)

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‘Environmental Indicator Report 2017’ - European Environment Agency

The European Union (EU) strives to make progress towards a resource-efficient, low-carbon economy. An annual European Environment Agency (EEA) environmental indicator report analyses whether the EU will be achieving a selected set of environmental objectives by 2020.

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/environmental-indicator-report-2017>

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EIONET meeting National Reference Centres Soil 2018

January , 2018 – Copenhagen, Denmark

NRC Soil is a thematic Eionet network of soil experts, nominated by the National Focal Points (NFP). Its members identify, analyse and discuss the role of soils in the context of national and Europe-wide environmental policies. They exchange experiences on soil and soil-related information as necessary.

The meeting will discuss the following topics:

- 1) Currently, a “light review” of NRC profiles is coordinated by the EEA and the NFPs in the context of the extension of the current EEA Multiannual work plan to 2020. Within this process, the profile of the NRC Soil is expected to be updated.

More information about the review procedure is expected after the upcoming EEA/NFP working group webinar.

- 2) By the 3rd quarter 2018, the first draft of EEA's State and Outlook of the Environment Report (SOER2020) will be developed. Input by NRC Soil will be needed.

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Joint Research Centre – European Soil Data Centre (Ispra)

EIONET NRC Soil Ad-Hoc Working Group on Contaminated Sites and Brownfields

The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting Ad-hoc WG on Contaminated Sites and Brownfields took place in Ferrara (Italy) on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017. During the meeting the Draft report 'Status of local soil contamination in Europe' based on the replies to results of the Questionnaire on the establishment of the indicator LSI003 "Progress in the management of contaminated sites in Europe" were discussed. The **report "Status of local soil contamination in Europe" - key concerns and observations** will be presented at the upcoming EIONET meeting of National Reference Centres Soil in Copenhagen by January 2018 and get published afterwards. .

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European Achievements in soil remediation and brownfield redevelopment

The monograph **European Achievements in soil remediation and brownfield redevelopment** has been published in November 2017, aiming at sharing best practices of soil restoration and management of contaminated sites among European countries. Eight countries present a total of 17 cases which illustrate how soil and brownfields remediation along with sustainable land management have become essential for reversing the trend of soil degradation and ensuring the provision of ecosystem services by soil. The cases show progress in research and innovative technologies of soil remediation, new outstanding approaches to soil remediation management, beneficial integration of stakeholders in decision-making and fruitful progress in raising public awareness and citizen science.

<http://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC102681/kj0217891enn.pdf>

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ESDAC Map Viewer

The **ESDAC Map Viewer** allows the user to navigate key soil data for Europe. It provides access to the attributes of the European Soil Database and some additional data related to main soil threats as identified in the Soil Thematic Strategy. The ESDAC Map Viewer is developed according to standards (OGC WMS) so that they are interoperable with similar information allowing real-time integration of environmental data from around the world. The Viewer integrates the European Soil Database layers and some other soil layers in one single web-based application. You may navigate and select each of the: 70 layers derived from the European Soil Database and other soil threats layers:

<https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/viewer>

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[ENSA - JRC Workshop: Giving soils a voice](#)

The European Soil Bureau Network **Working Group on "Soil Awareness and Education"** has as objective an action plan for the development of measures / programs / initiatives to raise awareness of the importance of soil across European society (i.e. policy makers, general public, universities, schools, industry, etc.). The presentations of its latest meeting (Bratislava 28-29 September 2017) can be found here:

<https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/networkcooperations/european-network-soil-awareness>

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Land and Soil Management Award

The prize rewards land use and soil management practices mitigating soil threats i.e. soil degradation, erosion, reduction of organic matter content, diffuse contamination and compaction, as well as the reduction of soil biodiversity, salinization, sealing, flooding and landslides. In doing so, the award sheds light on outstanding achievements, encouraging new concepts of land and soil protection and their implementation in land management, as well as enhancing awareness about the importance of land and soil functions. Farmers, landowners, land managers, groups of farmers, on their own or in collaboration with research institutes, universities and/or private companies can apply for the award. Deadline for applications: 31.12.2017

<http://www.europeanlandowners.org/awards/soil-land-award>

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#### Sino-EU Panel on Land and Soil (SEPLS)

The Sino-EU Panel on Land and Soil (SEPLS) is a scientific body which provides the European Commission with advice and expertise on the current state of soil and land as natural resources, potential environmental and socio-economic consequences of future utilization patterns. Membership was recently in the process of renewal via a call for applications and will thus be updated.

<https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/networkcooperations/sino-eu-panel-land-and-soil>

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#### European Soil Data Centre (ESDAC) - Newsletter

ESDAC Newsletter No.106 (November 2017) -

[https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/public\\_path/newsletter/201711.pdf](https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/public_path/newsletter/201711.pdf)

ESDAC Newsletter No.105 (October 2017) -

[https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/public\\_path/newsletter/201710.pdf](https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/public_path/newsletter/201710.pdf)

ESDAC Newsletter No.104 (September 2017) -

[https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/public\\_path/newsletter/201709.pdf](https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/public_path/newsletter/201709.pdf)

## NEWS FROM FAO - GSP

#### Global Soil Partnership – Symposium on soil contamination 2018

Global Soil Partnership (GSP) is expected to organise a Symposium on soil contamination which shall take place on 2–4 May, 2018 at FAO headquarters in Rome.

#### H2020 project GROW Observatory - questionnaire

The GSP/FAO is partner in the H2020 project GROW Observatory, which focus is on the promotion of citizen observatories activities in Europe (e.g. data collection and participatory governance on environmental issues). FAO is especially in charge of leading the Observatory Policy Interface (OPI) aiming to:

- Bring the results of the project to the attention of policy makers and relevant stakeholders (e.g. farmers group, extension services/advisory boards, etc.)
- Contribute to promote participatory governance: bring the citizens into the policy making process and make sure that they are heard by policy makers
- Ensure the sustainability of the project beyond 2019.

In order to set the work of the OPI, a questionnaire was elaborated on national and regional needs in terms of data collection, and the role of citizen observatories in policy making:

<https://beatriznofuentes.typeform.com/to/k3Y7c0>

More info on the GROW Observatory are available at <https://growobservatory.org/about/>

**The GROW Observatory (GROW)** is a European-wide project engaging thousands of growers, scientists and others passionate about the land.

## NEWS FROM NICOLE

NICOLE network meeting and workshop Spring 2018

Nature Based Remediation  
20-22 June 2018 in Frankfurt, Germany

[More Information](#)

## REMTECH EUROPE

RemTech is a specialized event in Italy on contaminated sites remediation and territory protection and requalification.

The yearly conference took place in Ferrara, Italy from September 20 – 22, 2017. [More Information](#)

The next conference is scheduled from 19 – 21 September 2018, also in Ferrara, Italy.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Inaugural Meeting of the G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue, 27 November 2017, Berlin, Germany

The G20 agreed at the Summit in Hamburg to launch a G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue. The G20 Leaders' Declaration states: "The G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue will exchange good practices and national experiences to improve the efficiency and sustainability of natural resource use across the entire life cycle, and to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns." Germany hosted the Inaugural Meeting of the G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue which took place on 27 November 2017, Berlin.

[More Information](#)

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### **GreenerSites** - Environmental Rehabilitation of brownfield Sites in central Europe

GreenerSites seeks to improve the environmental management of un- or underused industrial areas. The project aims to achieve this through the definition of strategies and tools that are based on a sustainable, integrated approach to make functional urban areas (FUAs) cleaner, healthier and more liveable places. Project partners will bring about a shared and enhanced knowledge on integrated environmental management of brownfields.

They will also reinforce capacities of the public sector to plan and carry out brownfield regeneration and produce well-defined sustainability measures and tools to ensure the effectiveness of environmental planning. GreenerSites will build on know-how from previous EU projects and existing networks. Main outputs of the project will be:

- A common tool for brownfield regeneration stemming from the preliminary analyses conducted in 9 central European FUAs;
- 9 strategic action plans defined in two steps (joint concept and full definition at FUA level after pilot phase);
- 11 pilot actions testing more sustainable and novel technical solutions in brownfields to improve their environmental performance;
- A full training package for public employees and stakeholders;
- A common transferability manual.

GreenerSites partnership is made of 11 partners from 5 central Europe countries working together to bring about a shared and enhanced knowledge on integrated environmental management of brownfields.

[More Information](#)

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### Degradation and Revitalisation of Soil and Landscape

11-13 September 2017

Olomouc, Czech Republic

<http://ekologie.upol.cz/v4conference>

The theme of the conference was Degradation causes and consequences, degradation monitoring and assessment, revitalisation measures.

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

### SedNet Newsletter September 2017 available to download

<http://sednet.org/news/newsletter/newsletter-september-2017/>

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### RECREATE

RECREATE is a project funded by the European Commission under FP7. Its overall objective is to support the development of the European Union's research funding program Horizon 2020, with a specific focus on "Challenge 5: Climate Action, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials". RECREATE aims at providing support on the future directions of these research fields.

More information on RECREATE can be found at: <http://www.recreate-net.eu/dweb/>

The project has now entered its last year and celebrated its 4th strategic annual workshop on December 13th - 14th 2017 in Brussels. The objective of this Strategic Workshop was to search for a cross-country perspective and to facilitate discussion among leading experts and decision-makers how best to understand and to support innovation in the area of soil remediation.

During this event, among other project outcomes, the RECREATE Green Horizons Scoreboard (<http://green-horizons.eu>) was presented to the audience. The Scoreboard provides indicators on innovation systems that are relevant to societal challenges in the areas of climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials. In this context, **soil remediation is a major priority area** under development.

## EUGRIS CORNER

New documents on EUGRIS, the platform for European contaminated soil and water information. Resources, events projects and news items added on EUGRIS can be viewed at:

[www.eugris.info/whatsnew.asp](http://www.eugris.info/whatsnew.asp). Then select the appropriate month and year for the updates in which you are interested. However, here is a selection of new additions to EUGRIS prepared by Paul Bardos (**r3 Environmental Technology Ltd**) for COMMON FORUM members.

- [Eugris news Dec, 2017](#)  
(PDF file - 148 KB)
- [Eugris news July, 2017](#)  
(PDF file - 117 KB)
- [Eugris news June, 2017](#)  
(PDF file - 148 KB)

- [Eugris news May, 2017](#)  
(PDF file - 156 KB)
- [Eugris news April, 2017](#)  
(PDF file - 112 KB)
- [Eugris news March, 2017](#)  
(PDF file - 111 KB)
- [Eugris news February, 2017](#)  
(PDF file - 104 KB)
- [Eugris news January, 2017](#)  
(PDF file - 225 KB)
- [Eugris news December, 2016](#)  
(PDF file - 107 KB)

## DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

### **Science for Environment Policy - The precautionary principle: decision-making under uncertainty**

ISBN 978-92-79-67015-2© European Union 2017

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/precautionary\\_principle\\_decision\\_making\\_under\\_uncertainty\\_FB18\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/precautionary_principle_decision_making_under_uncertainty_FB18_en.pdf)

One of the greatest challenges facing today's environmental policymakers is how to deal with complex risks, such as those associated with climate change. These risks are difficult to deal with because they are not precisely calculable in advance. Where there is scientific uncertainty about the full extent of possible harms but 'doing nothing' is also risky, decision-makers may use the precautionary principle. This Future Brief explores the role of the precautionary principle in EU law and policy, and examines key points of discussion drawn from the evidence.

Source: Science for Environment Policy, October 2017

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### **1<sup>st</sup> Vietnam Sustainability Forum (VSF-2018)**

January 18-19, 2018 – Hanoi, Vietnam

<http://www.vsf.a-vse.org/>

EIONET meeting National Reference Centres Soil 2018

January 23-24, 2018 - Copenhagen, Denmark

### **TERRA ENVISION Conference**

January 29 – February 01, 2018 - Barcelona, Spain

<http://terra-envision.weebly.com/>

### **3rd Workshop of the Central America, Caribbean and Mexico Soil Partnership**

January 29 – February 01, 2018 - Panama, Cuba

<http://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/resources/events/detail/en/c/1072550/>

### **4th Symposium on Enhanced Landfill Mining**

February 05-06, 2018 - Mechelen, Belgium

<http://elfm.eu/>

### **BONARES 2018 Conference**

February 26-28, 2018 - Berlin, Germany

<http://www.bonares2018.de/>

**Emerging Contaminants Summit**

March 6 - 7, 2018 - Westminster, Colorado, USA

[contaminantssummit.com](http://contaminantssummit.com)

Intersol'2018 - Congrès-Exposition International sur les Sols, les Sédiments et l'Eau

Les Sites et Sols Pollués : un Défi pour les Grands Projets Urbains !

March 27-29, 2018 - Paris, France

<http://www.intersol.fr/>

**NZs 5th Contaminated Land Conference 2018**

May 1-3, 2018 - Christchurch, New Zealand

<http://landandgroundwater.com/conference/5th-contaminated-land-conference-nz>

Global Soil Partnership – Symposium on land/soil contamination 2018

May 2-4, 2018 probably at FAO headquarters in Rome

**SETAC (society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry) Europe 28<sup>th</sup> annual meeting**

May 13 - 17, 2018 – Rome, Italy

<https://rome.setac.org/>

**NICOLE network meeting and workshop**

June 20-22, 2018 - Frankfurt, Germany

[http://www.nicole.org/pagina/26/Upcoming\\_events.html](http://www.nicole.org/pagina/26/Upcoming_events.html)

7th European Bioremediation Conference (EBC-VII)

<http://www.ebc-vii.tuc.gr/>

11th International Society for Environmental Biotechnology conference (ISEB 2018)

<http://www.iseb2018.tuc.gr/>

June 25-28, 2018 - Chania, Crete-Greece

**Dioxin 2018 - 38th International Symposium on Halogenated Persistent Organic Pollutants****10th International PCB Workshop**

August 26-31, 2018 - Kraków, Poland

[http://chemia.ug.edu.pl/media/aktualnosci/62560/dioxin\\_2018\\_flyer\\_dioxin\\_2018](http://chemia.ug.edu.pl/media/aktualnosci/62560/dioxin_2018_flyer_dioxin_2018)

**REMTECH Europe 2018**

September 19-21, 2018 - Ferrara, Italy

<http://www.remtechexpo.com/en/>

SustRem 2018 (6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Sustainable Remediation) XI SEMINARIO EKOS BRASIL: November 6-9, 2018; Sao Paolo, Brasil

**4<sup>th</sup> European Resources Forum 2018**

November 27-28, 2018 - Berlin, Germany

<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/node/26203>

[See all announcements on COMMON FORUM website](#)