



# EU Action Plan 'Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil'

## **Pathway to a Healthy Planet for All**

*Bavo Peeters, DG Environment  
Global Assessment of Soil Pollution, 4 June 2021*

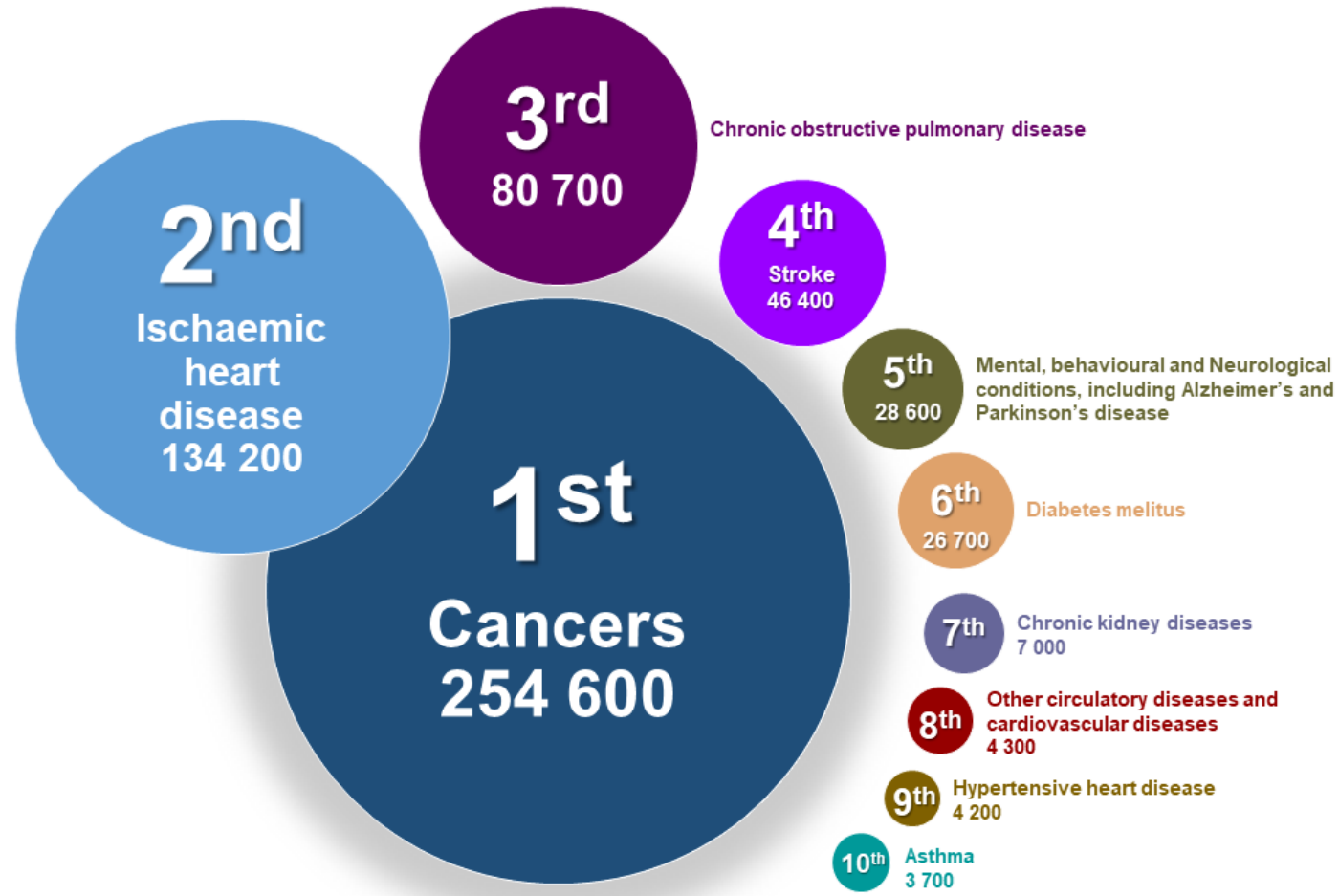


“For the **health of our citizens**, our children and grandchildren, Europe needs to move towards a **zero pollution ambition**.

I will put forward a cross-cutting **strategy to protect citizens’ health from environmental degradation and pollution**, addressing air and water quality, hazardous chemicals, industrial emissions, pesticides and endocrine disruptors.”

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

# | Urgency to act on pollution



Source: EEA – Healthy environment, healthy lives (2018) based on WHO (2016)



# | We are encountering major ecological crises



**CLIMATE**



**BIODIVERSITY**



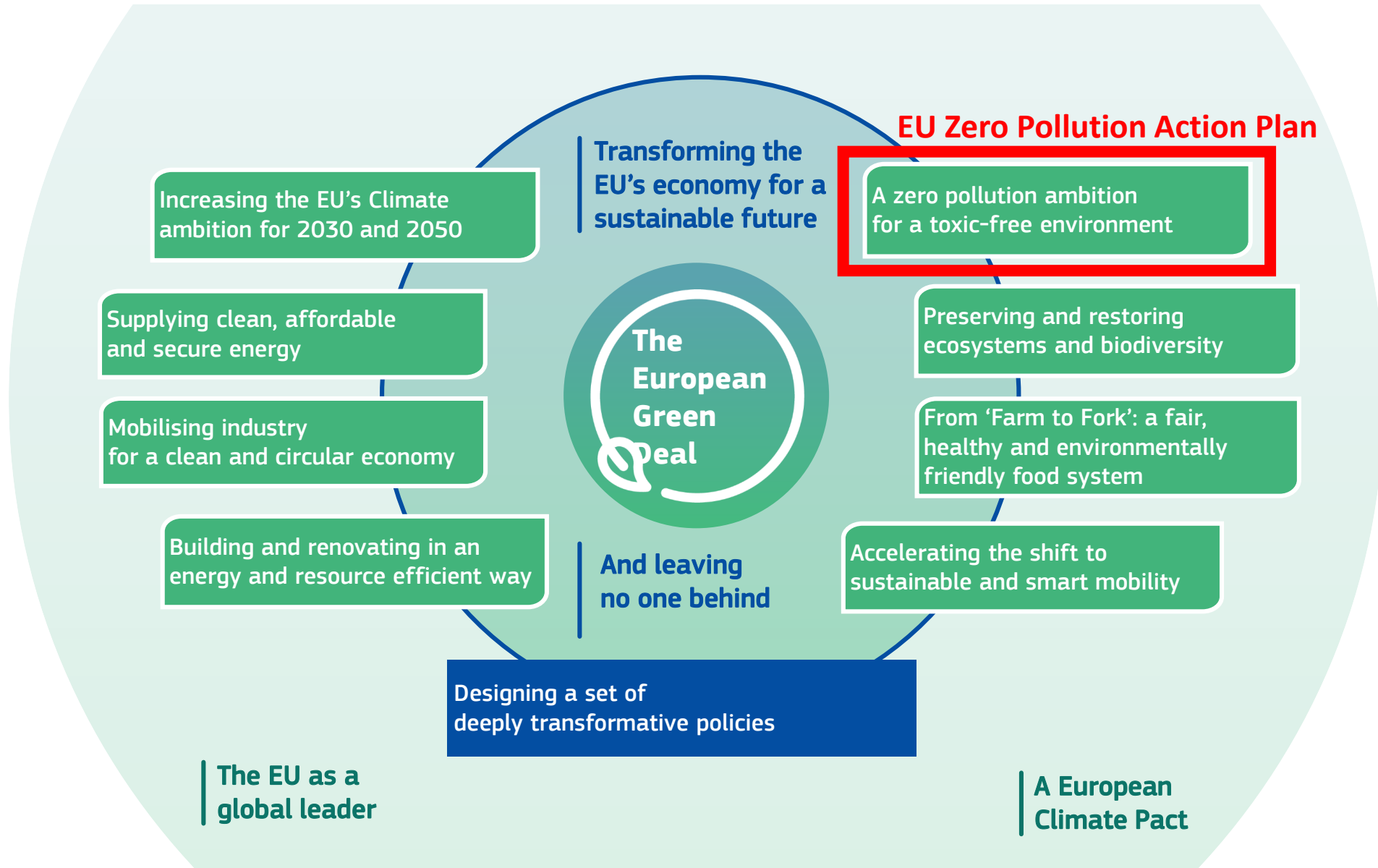
**RESOURCES**



**POLLUTION**



# The European Green Deal



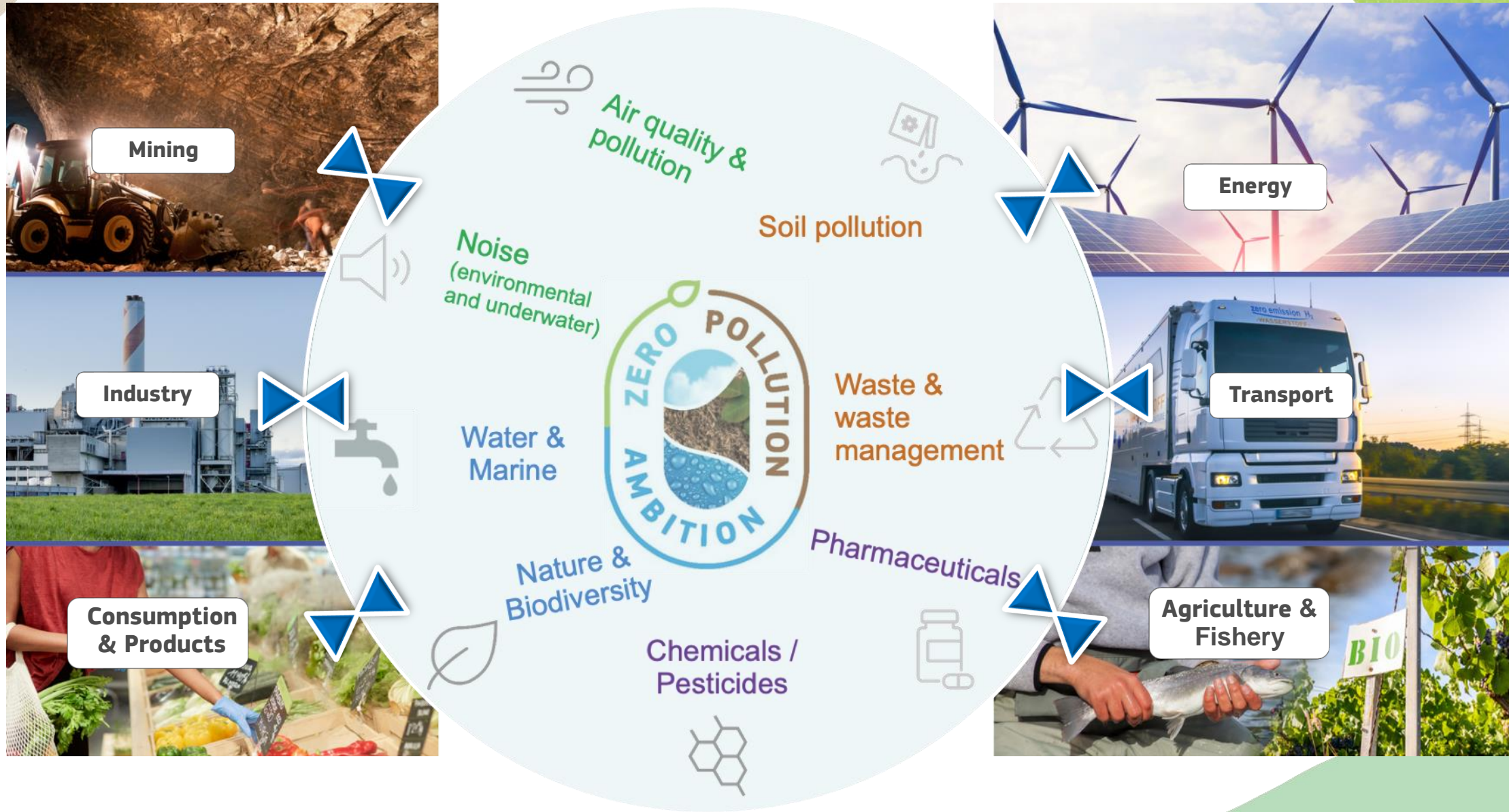


# The zero pollution vision for 2050

“Air, water and soil pollution is reduced to **levels no longer considered harmful to health and natural ecosystems** and that **respect the boundaries our planet** can cope with, thus creating a toxic-free environment.”

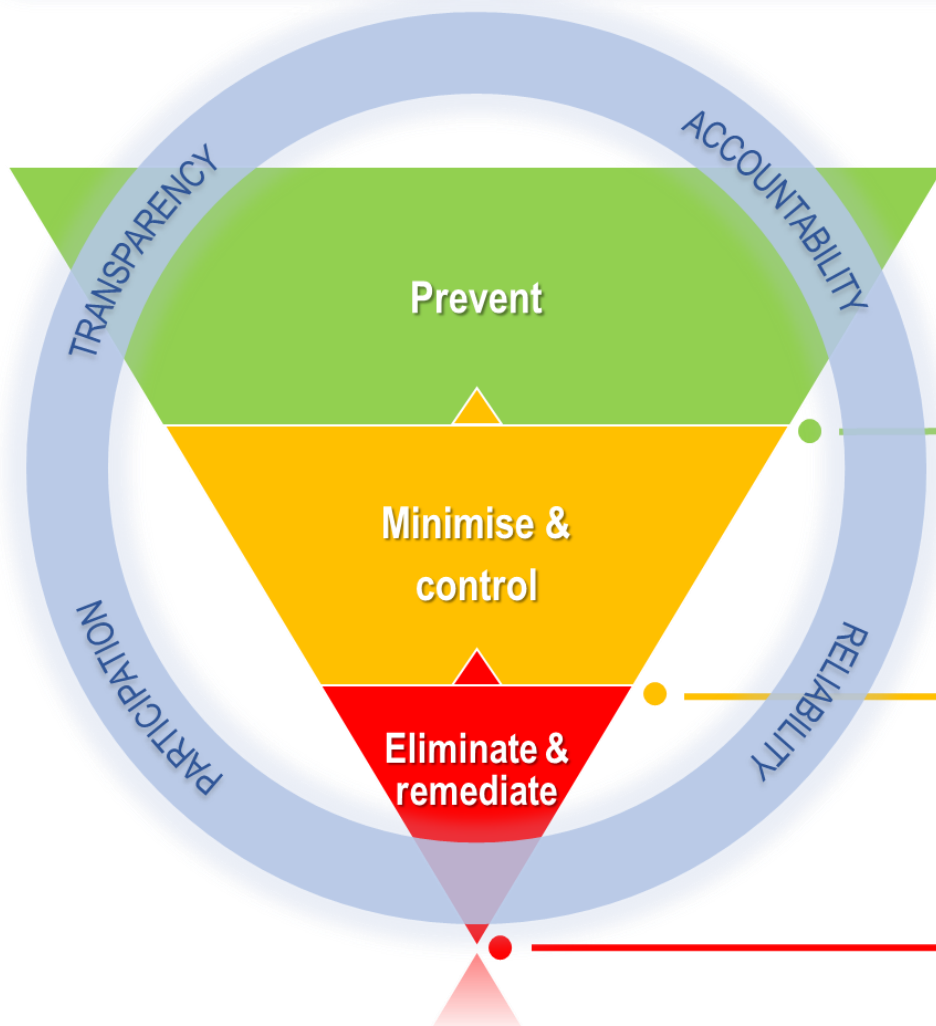


# Zero pollution policies – towards an integrated approach



# Hierarchy of action on pollution

Union policy on the environment shall be based on the **precautionary principle** and on the principles that **preventive action** should be taken, that environmental damage should as a priority be **rectified at source** and on the **polluter pays principle**.



PROTECT HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT	ENCOURAGE INNOVATION
Prevent pollution in all stages of a clean and circular economy from extraction of natural resources, to production, service provision and consumption as at end-of-life.	Promote clean, 'zero pollution' production processes, safe and sustainable products and services by design as well as innovative tools, technologies, and behavioral change.
Minimise releases and exposure of humans and the environment to pollution through management, technological measures and information about releases.	Promote modern and smart production processes, safe and sustainable product uses, services and business models, and digital solutions for tracking and reducing pollution.
Eliminate and remediate, as far as possible, existing pollution of water and soils and apply measures to return to a 'good status'.	Promote zero pollution recycling, waste management, decontamination and remediation.

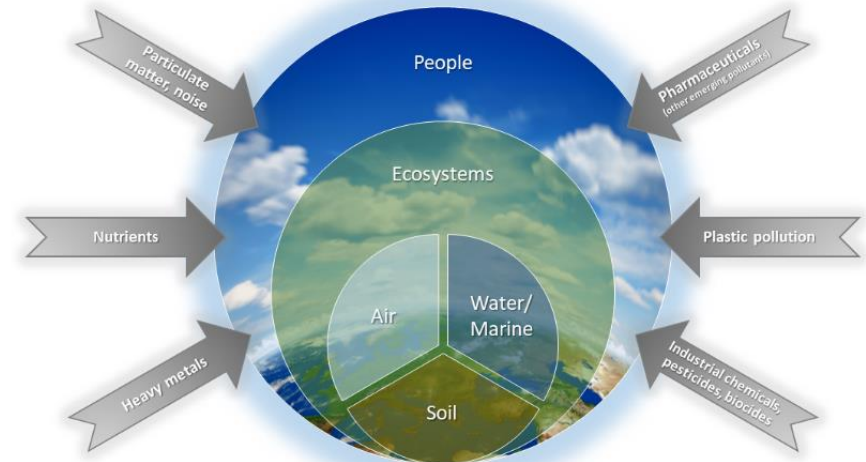




# | Actions relevant for soil

## Legislative actions

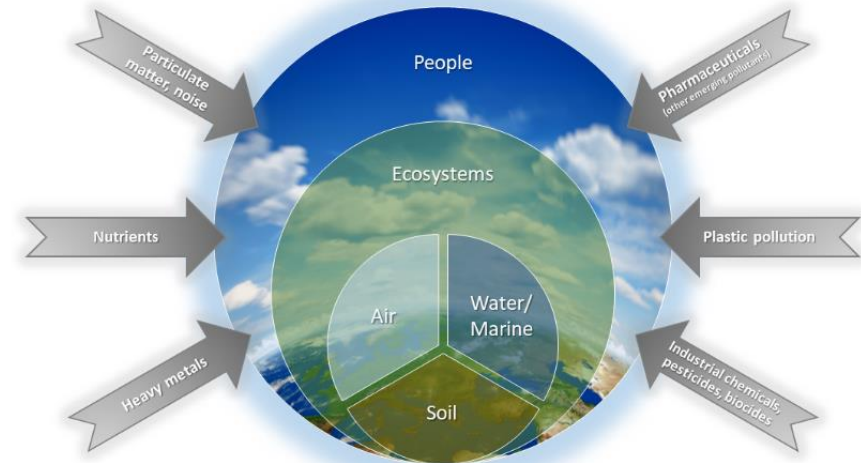
- Proposal for new EU law on nature restoration
- Review and evaluation of the rules on urban wastewater treatment and sewage sludge
- Evaluation of the rules on environmental liability
- Review of the rules on industrial emissions
- Review of the rules on waste
- ...



# | Actions relevant for soil

## Other non-legislative actions

- New EU Soil Strategy
- Integrated Nutrient Management Action Plan
- Guidance for a passport on excavated soils
- Priority watch list for soil contaminants
- Soil pollution monitoring and outlook
- Horizon Mission on Soil Health and Food
- ...



| For more info and a complete overview



**Check out the action plan in all languages of the EU**

[Zero pollution action plan](#)

[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/zero-pollution-action-plan\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/zero-pollution-action-plan_en)





# Thank you for your attention!

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