

EIONET Meeting 10/12/2012

Opening address by Mrs. Maria Betti, Director IES

Distinguished EIONET delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you here in Ispra at the Joint Research Centre within the premises of the Institute of Environment and Sustainability. As you may know, I have been recently nominated Director of this Institute and I'm still getting acquainted with the various activities within the IES.

One of our main activities is the work we are doing in developing soil data and information systems within the action SOIL of the Land Resources Management Unit. Since some years we have agreed within the various services dealing with environmental data and information (the Group of Four) a subdivision of tasks that assigns to my Institute the responsibility for the Forest and the Soil data centres. These two data centres are part of the system of environmental data centres we jointly operate with EUROSTAT and the European Environment Agency. One of the main tasks of the data centres is to assure a smooth flow of data and information from Member States to the various EU relevant policy areas. For soils this means data and information relevant to the EU Soil Thematic Strategy and to the Environmental reporting obligations of the European Environment Agency. I therefore particularly welcome the colleagues of DG

ENVIRONMENT and of the European Environment Agency at this meeting, since close relation with our customers is of crucial importance for the JRC.

Indeed, as you may know, the JRC is a customer oriented organization and therefore our work programme is closely linked to policy priorities of the various European Commission services and EU Institutions. We therefore look forward to the presentations by DG ENVIRONMENT and the European Environment Agency also in perspective of our next work programme for 2013 as well as for the long term planning of the soil related activities of my Institute. Of course all our activities would not be possible without the constant support of the Member States and their soil data holding institutions. I therefore look forward to a continuing collaboration with your institutions and well as with our colleagues from DG ENVIRONMENT and the European Environment Agency in the field of soil data and information.

I hope this meeting will allow making major progress in reviewing the work done so far and in identifying future priorities in the framework of our fruitful collaboration.

I wish you a very successful meeting and a pleasant stay here in Ispra with us,

Thank you