

COMMON FORUM

Joop. J Vegter



- Origin of the network
- Current activities
- Membership

COMMON FORUM on Contaminated land in the European Union

VA

The fathers and mothers Vienna 1993

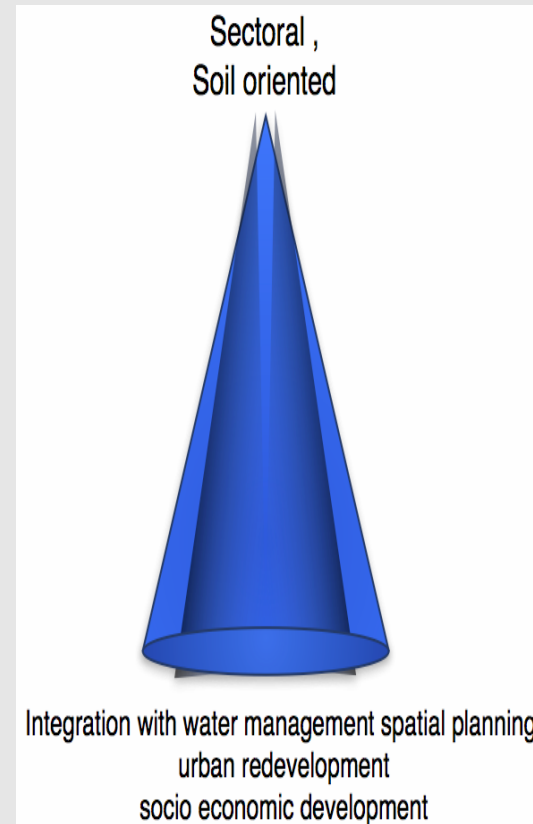


“COMMON FORUM”

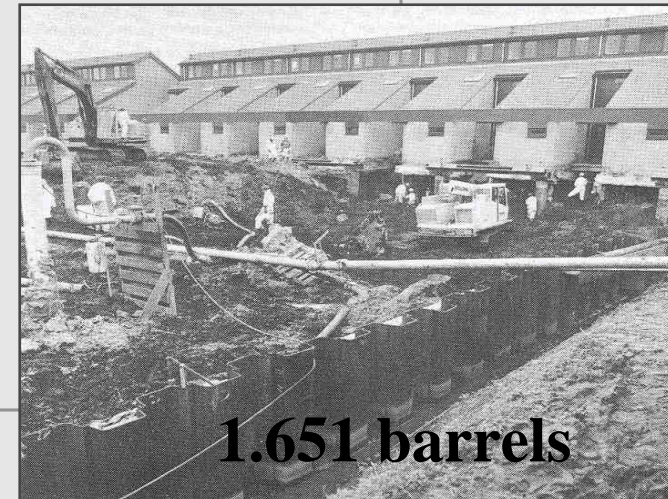
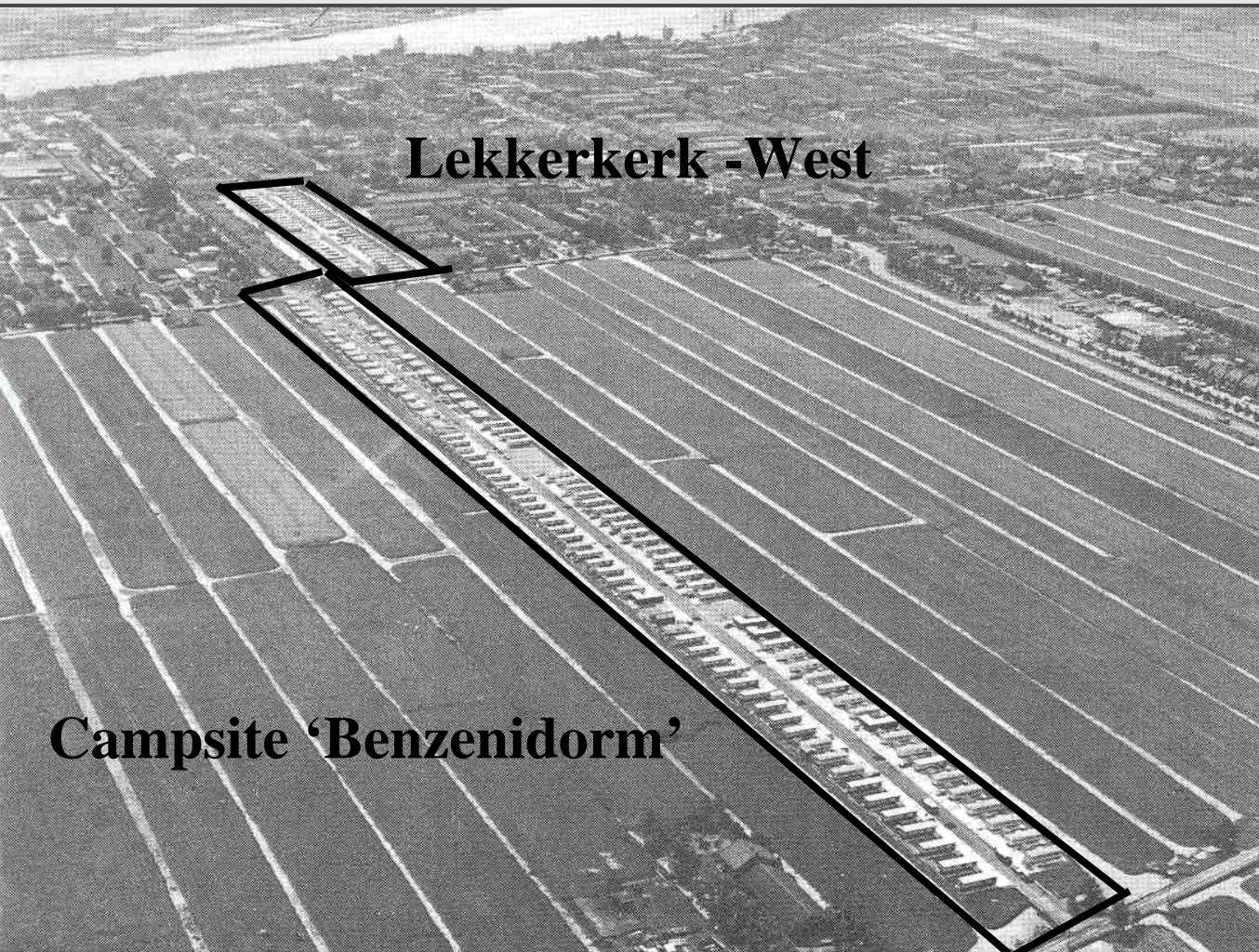
- **Network of contaminated land policy experts and advisors (since 1994)**
- **Mission:**
 - **Being a platform for exchange of knowledge and experiences,**
 - **Establishing a discussion platform on policy, research, technical and managerial concepts of contaminated land,**
 - **Being a platform for initiating and following-up of international projects among members,**
 - **Offering an exchange of expertise to the European Commission and to European networks.**

30 years evolution of contaminated land policy perspectives

- **± 1980: recognition of an environmental problem with soil**
- **± 1990: policy making: how to assess the soil problem**
- **± 2000: finding solutions in a socio-economic context (requires integration with other policies and practices)**



The Lekkerkerk Affair (1980)



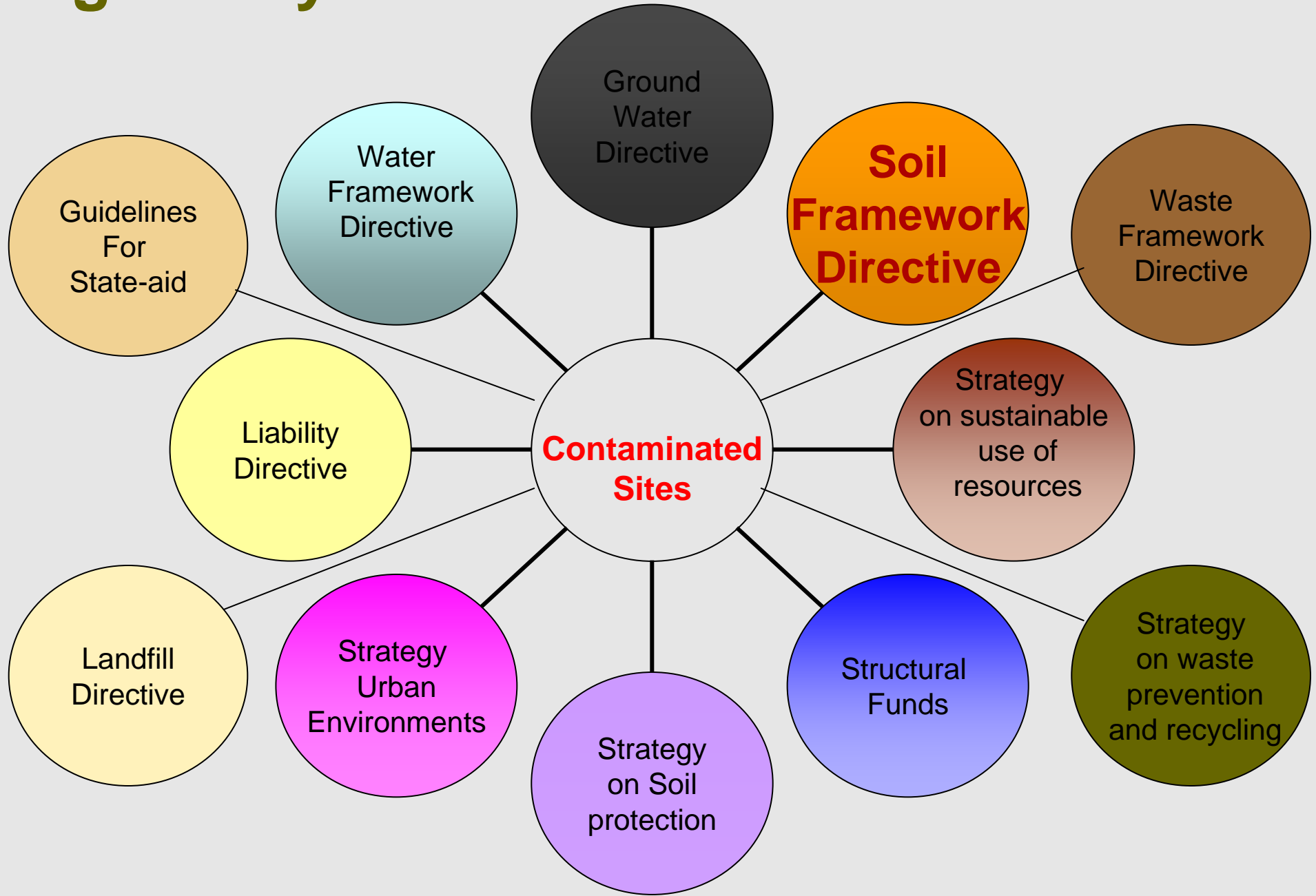
Solving megasite problems

Interreg experiences



- **Integrate risk assessment, remediation and redevelopment in a single process**
 - Flexible spatial planning
 - Long term perspective
 - Sharing of cost and financial risks
- **Make decisions as soon as possible and accept uncertainties you can handle**
- **Involve stakeholders and possible funders from the start, do not wait for the remediation**
- **Use independent advisors**
- **Communicate the quality of the solution instead of the risk of pollution**

Regulatory environment in EU



COMMON FORUM Information

- **Network management by an independent secretariat**
 - Joopvegter@mac.com
- **Activities**
 - Two meetings per year
 - Discussion papers between meetings
 - Special sessions at contaminated land conferences
- **Agenda COMMON FORUM meeting**
 - Eu policy development
 - » Waste, soil, groundwater, state aid.....
 - National policies
 - Research and RBLM practices
- **Links**
 - Nicole and Cabernet networks
 - EU: DG-ENV, JRC and EEA
- **Communication**
 - **Email:** COMMON FORUM NEWS
 - **Websites:**
 - » www.commonforum.eu
 - » www.eugris.info

Members ?

- **Policy makers and advisors from Ministries of National agencies in current (and future) EU memberstates and EFTA countries**
- **Countries contributing financially to support the secretariat are members of the “agenda committee”**
- **Still Missing: Bulgaria, Estonia, Malta, Slovakia**
- **New members: Romania and Portugal?**
- **Contacts to be improved: Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovenia, Tsjech republic.**



Please join the COMMON FORUM

THANK YOU!