



The role of public awareness in the future of the EU soil policy

SONDAR CZ-AT and ELSA

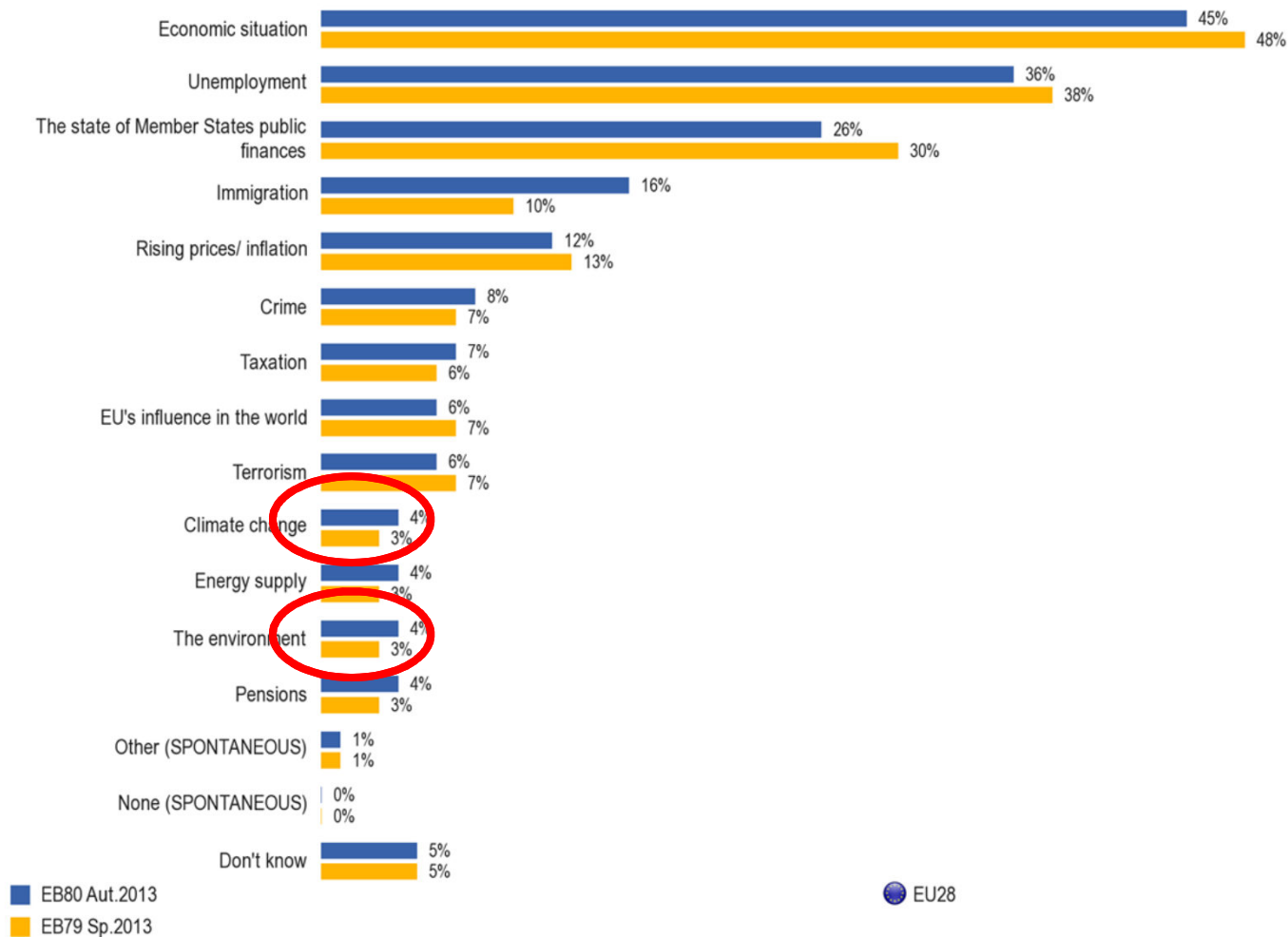
International conference

Lednice 15 May 2014

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Eurobarometer 2013

QA6. What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment?

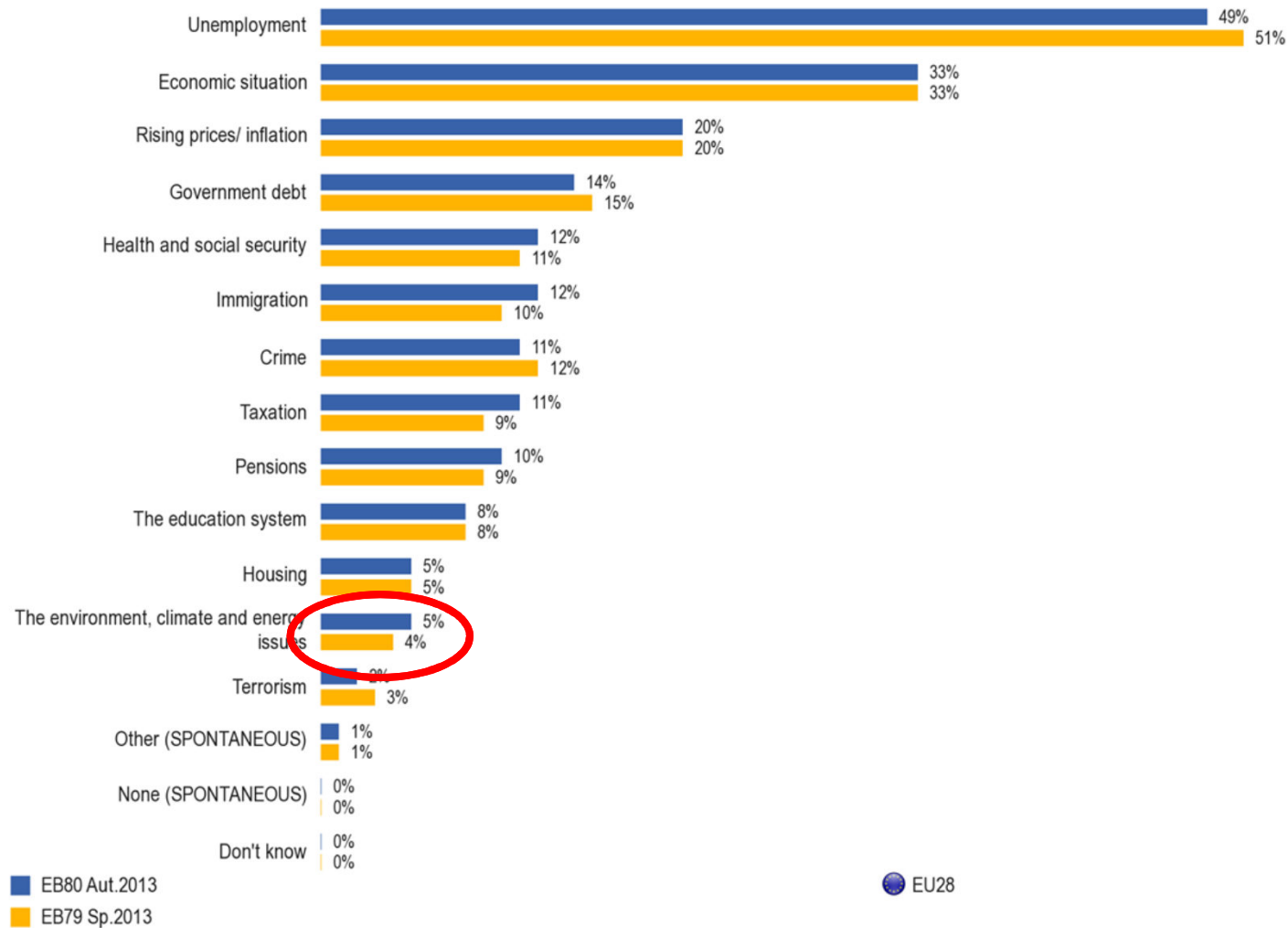




European
Commission

Eurobarometer 2013

QA4a. What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment?





SOIL FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

- ❖ Proposal for **SOIL FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE** adopted by the EC in 2006
- ❖ Eight years of political blockage on grounds of subsidiarity and costs
- ❖ This shows the political sensitivity and the difficulty to legislate on soil degradation issues
- ❖ It is essential, yet very difficult, to involve all decision-making levels
- ❖ The Commission has withdrawn its proposal but remains committed to propose a new initiative under the next mandate





POLICY CONTEXT

2011 EU2020 Strategy / Road Map for resource-efficient Europe (RERM):

- **Milestone: "By 2020, EU policies take into account their direct and indirect impact on land use in the EU and globally, and the rate of land take is on track with an aim to achieve no net land take by 2050; soil erosion is reduced and the soil organic matter increased, with remedial work on contaminated sites well underway"**

2012 Rio+20 outcome document "The future we want":

- **Land and soil degradation recognised as a global problem**
- **Milestone on land: "Strive to achieve a land degradation neutral world in the context of sustainable development"**

2013 7th Environment Action Programme for the EU:

- **Calls for setting targets on land take and on a number of crucial soil quality aspects (erosion, organic matter and contamination)**



What next?



- ❖ Follow-up on the **7EAP commitments- Targets and Soil initiative**
- ❖ Preparation of a **Communication on 'land as a resource'**
- ❖ **No-net-loss initiative** in the context of the EU Biodiversity Strategy
- ❖ **Internat'l Year of Soils 2015** and **Expo** in Milan
- ❖ Delivery of **recommendations by the Intergovernmental Working Group** under the UNCCD on "land degradation neutrality"
- ❖ Establishment of an EU position on the **post 2015 framework**, notably on SDGs

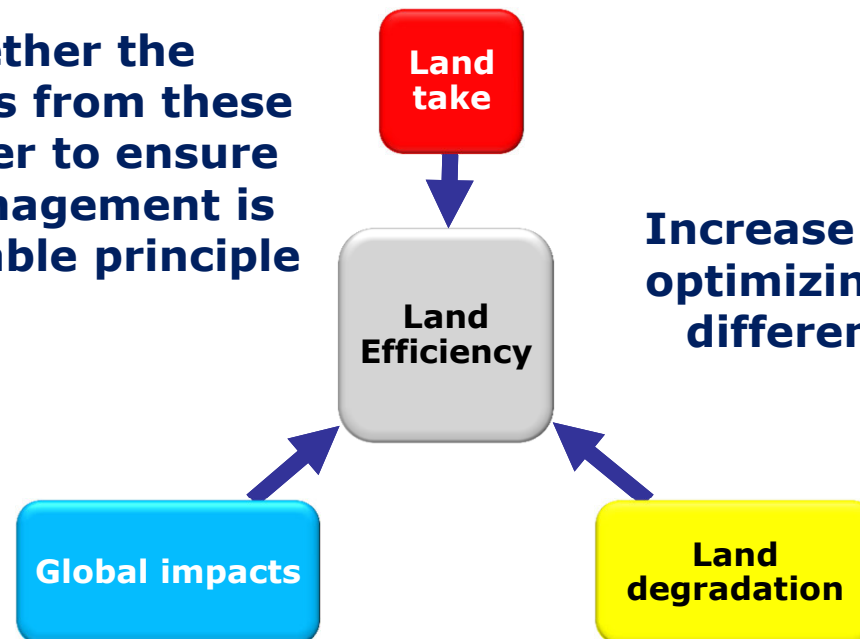


What will be the Land Communication about?

- Raising awareness about :
 - **the value of land as a resource for crucial ecosystem services (provisioning, regulating, cultural, etc.);**
 - **the limitation of the resource and how it is affected by land take and land degradation;**
 - **how the gap can increase particularly in the context of global challenges (increase in population, food demand, bioenergy, climate change)**
- Providing pointers for further action at EU level:
 - **Evaluate the effectiveness of current policy instruments at National, EU and global levels;**
 - **Define the sustainable level of ambition for a set of objectives (targets) for pressures, state, impacts or responses**
 - **Assess options for EU contribution to a more sustainable management of land as a resource.**

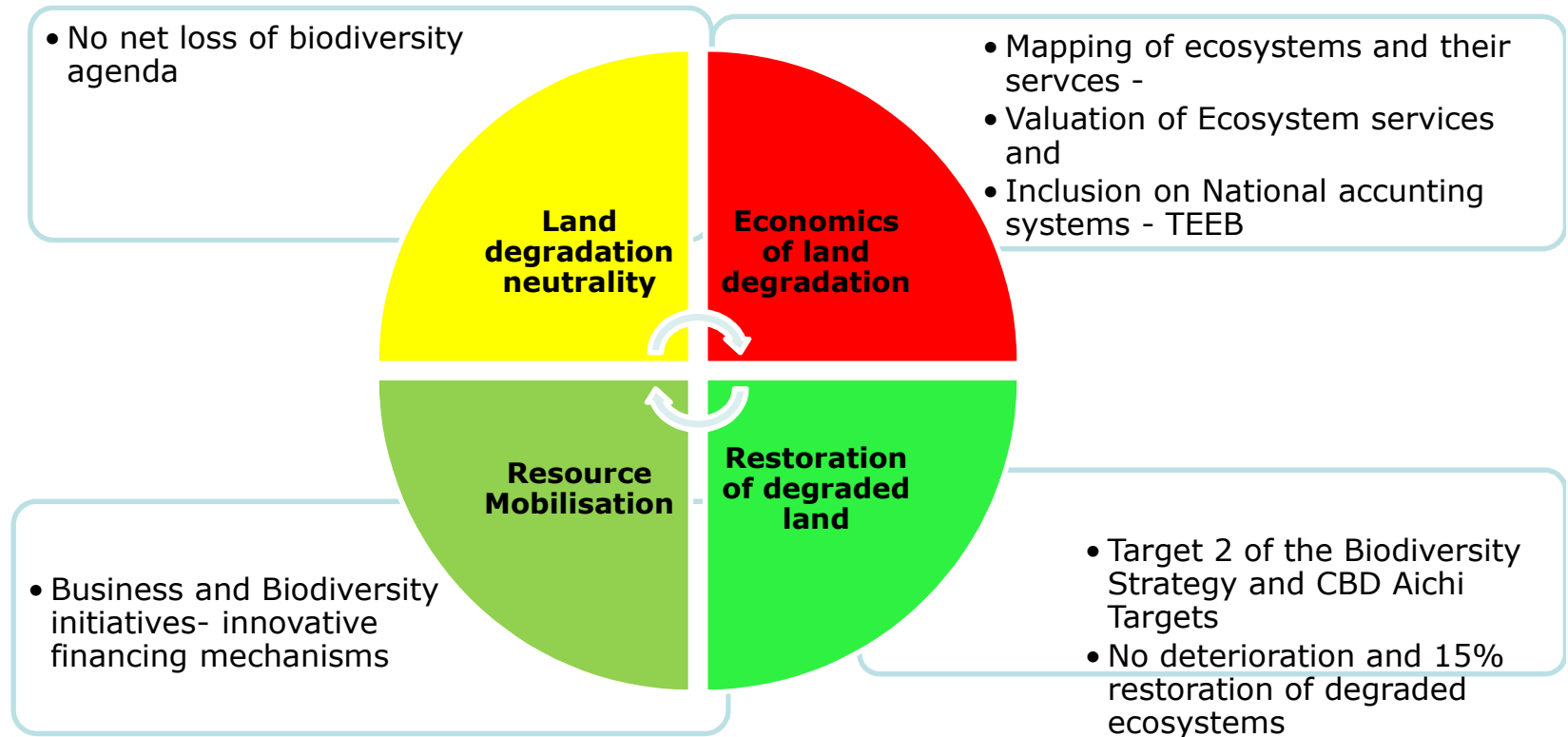
The Communication on “Land as a resource” responds to different political mandates

Bringing together the
common elements from these
processes in order to ensure
that EU land management is
based on sustainable principle



Increase land efficiency by
optimizing the provision of
different land functions

To increase awareness parallelisms with the Biodiversity agenda





New ways

In parallel to the long term awareness

- mobilise new partners (Unions, businesses)
- mobilise facilitators (eg in the farming Community)
- mobilise NGOs
- make the voices heard





New opportunities

THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SOIL

Scoping contract of the Commission

Awareness Campaigns

MILAN EXPO

Cooperation with ELSA and SONDAR





European
Commission

**Thank you
for your
attention!**



http://ec.europa.eu/environment/land_use/index_en.htm