

BALANCED MIGRATION



24 September 2009

The Government's new document "Safeguarding our soils", published today, states that "Pressures on our soils and competition for land are likely to increase in future with expected population growth". Commenting on the document, the Co-Chairmen of the Cross Party Group for Balanced Migration, Frank Field MP and Nicholas Soames MP, said:

"It becomes clearer every day that all our environmental objectives – whether carbon emissions, food supply or soil management – are made much more difficult by the growth in our population which is now twice that of the 1990s and three times that of the 1980s. As immigration accounts for 70 per cent of our population increase, this is a nettle that the Government must now grasp."

Notes to editors:

1. DEFRA's document can be found here - <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/land/soil/documents/soil-strategy.pdf>.
See Paragraph 23 for the above quote. The Government's press release states that "England's soil has suffered over the last 200 years from the impacts of intensive farming and industrial pollution, and today is under threat from erosion by wind and rain, a loss of organic matter and nutrients, and pressure for development."
2. For media enquiries, please contact the Office of Rt Hon Frank Field MP, on 020 7219 6636.
3. The Rt Hon Frank Field MP and The Hon Nicholas Soames MP are Co-Chairmen of the Cross Party Group on Balanced Migration. The Group's Vice-Chairmen are Lord (Bill) Jordan CBE (former President of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union) and Daniel Kawczynski MP (Conservative, Shrewsbury & Atcham). Other members include Roger Godsiff MP, Peter Kilfoyle MP, David Taylor MP, Robert Key MP, Colin Burgon MP, Lord Ahmed, Lord Anderson, Lord Carey (former Archbishop of Canterbury) Baroness Cox, Field Marshal Lord Inge KG, GCB, PC, DL, Lord Skidelsky, Lord Wakeham and Lord Ramsbotham.
4. For more information, please visit www.balancedmigration.com.