

Bee-friendly farm machinery & wild-flowering landscapes presented with the European Bee Award 2016

In a ceremony hosted by MEP Franc Bogovič at the European Parliament in Brussels, this year's award was presented to two projects for their contributions to pollinators' wellbeing & bee-friendly farming practices.

Brussels, 7 December 2016 — Designed to distinguish innovative & practical ideas to protect pollinators in European farming, the European Bee Award, established by the European Landowners' Organization (ELO) and the European Agricultural Machinery Industry Association (CEMA), was handed over last night to this year's winners:

- *"B-lines – connecting the landscape for pollinators"*, a large-scale initiative developed by Buglife from the UK, is the winner of the "land management practices" award; while
- *"Double knife"* mowing technology from BB Umwelttechnik in Germany was awarded the "innovative & technological solutions" prize.

Matt Shardlow, Chief Executive of Buglife, and Max Bannaski, founder and CEO of BB Umwelttechnik received the prize in the presence of Janez Potočnik, former EU Commissioner for the Environment.

Franc Bogovič MEP, Member of the Jury, underlined the growing prominence and popularity of the award, stressing that "application numbers keep increasing year-on-year. This shows there is a widely-shared commitment to protecting pollinators in European agriculture".

Thierry de l'Escaille, Secretary General of ELO, congratulated the *"B-lines"* project on their successful cooperation between landowners, farmers, NGOs, governments, and local groups to act together to set up non-stop habitats for pollinator communities in the farmed environment.

On behalf of the agricultural machinery industry, **Gilles Dryancour, CEMA Honorary President**, welcomed the development of farm equipment technology that can reduce the impact of farming activities on pollinators' populations, as showcased by the winning project *"Double knife"*.

In 2016, the European Bee Award competition received 27 applications from 17 different European countries. Last night's award ceremony gathered over 100 participants: bee-keepers, policy makers, landowners, academia and representatives of the agri-food sector exchanged best practices, while enjoying a festive networking evening celebrating bees and biodiversity.

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“B-lines: connecting landscape for pollinators”

**Winner of the Category:
“Land Management practices”**

“B-lines: connecting landscape for pollinators” is a project from the UK established by Buglife. The project takes a landscape-scale approach, and aims at providing better habitats for pollinators and reversing the decline of wildflower rich meadows that causes isolation and fragmentation of pollinator communities. The B-lines’ corridors have been established in England, seen already enhanced flora and increased pollinator communities. Buglife are keen to roll-out B-lines across other countries, and the mapping of Northern Ireland will start soon.



“Double knife”

**Winner of the Category:
“Innovative and technological solutions”**

BB Umwelttechnik’s “Double knife system with automatic grinding machine” from Germany, is an innovative mower tool to harvest grassland and avoid damaging insects and amphibians seating on wild-flowers or grass. Behind the project there is a farmer and bee-keeper looking for an environmentally friendly tool who decided to build up a mower based on his own ideas. This mowing system has been already for two years in the market and its planning to expand to other interested European Countries.



About the ELO – European Landowners’ Association

The European Landowners’ Organization is a unique federation of 60 national associations from the 28 EU Member States and beyond, which represent the interests of landowners, land managers and rural entrepreneurs at the European political level. Independent and non-profit, the ELO stands for all rural entrepreneurs, promoting a prosperous countryside through the dynamism of private landownership and stewardship.

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About CEMA – European Agricultural Machinery

CEMA is the European association representing the agricultural machinery industry. The industry represented by CEMA includes 4,500 manufacturers of agricultural equipment employing directly 135,000 persons and indirectly in the distribution and service network another 125,000 persons. The companies are mainly small and medium-sized manufacturers according to the EU definition and in 2014 had a total turnover of 27 billion euros.

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