



Anders Wall's Stiftelse



MEDIA STATEMENT: ANDERS WALL AWARD 2014, RECEIVED BY CHRISTOPHE LENAERTS OF THE HEIHUYZEN ESTATE, BELGIUM

Brussels, 9th June 2014

On the 6th June 2014, the Anders Wall Award, which rewards special contributions to Europe's rural environment, was presented to Christophe Lenaerts of the Heihuyzen Estate, Belgium. The prize of €15,000 was awarded to Mr. Lenaerts at the General Assembly of the Friends of the Countryside in Castello Di Udine, Italy.

For the past 10 years, the European Landowners' Organization (ELO) and the Anders WALL Foundation (Sweden) have granted this award. This has been together with the Friends of the Countryside (FCS), the Royal Agricultural Academy of Stockholm, and most recently DG Environment. It is intended to promote efforts to create a positive rural environment through landscape preservation, biodiversity enhancement, cultural heritage conservation, and contributions to the rural economy within the EU.

This year's winner, Christophe Lenaerts, inherited his 400 Hectare Belgian Estate in 2007. Taking over from his father, Lenaerts used his background as a technology entrepreneur to transform the heavily damaged forest he inherited into an actively managed and profitable estate, which can support long-term sustainability, in under 5 years. The social forestry we now see at Heihuyzen is the result of deep engagement with local community stakeholders, public administration, legislation, and public policy in the Flanders region. Today, the Estate supports a myriad of activities, from education, to hunting and sports, scouts camps and many others.

Christophe's vision for the future is crystallised in his determination to share experiences, knowledge, best practices, and economic modelling with a new generation of stakeholders and land managers. It is his ambition to become a beacon for nature preservation in Belgium and beyond. In taking on this challenge, he joined the regional non-profit association, Landelijk Vlaanderen, as Secretary General, and became Vice-President of the Belgian forestry association Société Royale Forestière de Belgique - Koninklijke Belgische Bosbouw Maatschappij.

Christophe was "delighted" and "overjoyed" to receive this prize along with words of encouragement from Pia Bucella, Director for Natural Capital in DG Environment.

A diploma was also awarded on this occasion to Stefano Cantelmo, on behalf of the Fasola Bologna family for their 360° Green Revolution project at Castello Monte Vibiano Vecchio.

About the ELO

The European Landowners' Organization (ELO), created in 1972, is a unique federation of national associations from the 28 EU Member States, representing the interests of landowners, land managers and rural entrepreneurs at the European political level. Independent and non-profit, the ELO aims to promote a prosperous countryside through the dynamism of private landowners. Its Secretariat is based in Brussels.

www.elo.org

About the Anders WALL Foundation

The Anders Wall Foundation was established in 1981 in Sweden, every year awarding scholarships to young talents in the fields of natural science research, young business enterprise, rural development, international studies and music. Since the start, the Foundation has awarded SEK 40 million to 300 recipients.

<http://www.wallstiftelsen.se>

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