



## Editorial

For many years now, we have argued that private landowners are a vital part of maintaining habitats and biodiversity throughout Europe. We have said that the participation of landowners and managers, when given the right incentives, can foster a new atmosphere of cooperation and good will between different stakeholders. We have pointed to many examples, like our Wildlife Estates, where our members are protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

This is why I am so proud to say that our LIFE+ 3water project has won the first ever Natura 2000 award for reconciling interests and perceptions. With the help of the European Commission and the LIFE+ programme, we have been able to ensure that its target species, the bittern and tree frog, have a renewed and expanded place to live.

That we have been able to do all this is wholly due to the positive and engaged nature of local landowners, strong support of the administration and local authorities, committed nature organisations, and DG Environment. Through this project, they have dedicated themselves to not only restore biodiversity, but to understand and learn from each other. This is best encapsulated in the project's '3E' philosophy, wherein we balance Ecology, Economy, and Education.

Even though it is now in its final stages, the project partners, including the local multifunctional landowners, have committed themselves to keep the new improvements in place for at least 20 years, showing real dedication and spirit to the restoration of a beautiful area.

For the ELO and all the 3water partners, this Natura 2000 award is an unexpected honour for an extraordinary project.

Thierry de l'ESCAILLE  
Secretary General



F.ASSENZA

## ELO General Assembly in Rome





## ELO General Assembly in Rome

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*From the 18th to the 19th June, the European Landowners' Organization (ELO) held its General Assembly in Rome. As is customary for ELO General Assemblies, our host country Italy will assume the next 6 month presidency of the European Council, which provided an excellent opportunity to share our thoughts and discuss key issues with Ministers and Italian members.*

The events, spread across one and a half days, organised with the big support of Proprietà Fondiaria, were held in the beautiful headquarters of the Confagricoltura, Roma, where we were warmly received by President Mario GUIDI. Aside from a stunning backdrop, the Confagricoltura provided a forum for thriving debate on the most pressing issues facing the land-owning and wider agricultural community.

The morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> kicked off with the ELO General Assembly, where Christoph BÜREN, ELO President, and Giuseppe VISCONTI welcomed participants before Thierry DE L'ESCAILLE provided a detailed overview of the ELO's continued activities. He highlighted the role of the ELO, and its various projects, in the following policy areas: CAP Reform; the European Elections; Family Farms and Businesses; Innovation; Forestry; State Aid; Large Carnivores; Circular Economy; Biodiversity Strategy 2020; and, Biogeographical Processes. The presentation was well received and sparked a number of interesting policy-orientated questions and interventions. These policy topics were continued in greater detail, from the Member States' perspective, at the enlarged EPG the following morning. Chaired by Ross MURRAY, Vice-President of the Country Land and Business Association (CLA), UK, the EPG engaged with the additional topics of property rights, land reform, taxes, and the TTIP negotiations.

It was also decided during the ELO General Assembly to appoint Corrado PIRIZIO-BIROLI as Honorary President of the ELO, alongside current Honorary President, Mark THOMASIN-FOSTER.

Following the morning session, participants listened with interest to Mario GUIDI, Confagricoltura President, describe the 100 year history of his organization, Italy's relationship with the EU, and his opinions on internal agricultural policy. While Italy's sheer range of quality agricultural products makes it unique in the world, regional variety from the Alps to Sicily means that it does not benefit from an overall national strategy that would enable optimum competitiveness. Moreover, he explained the particular tension between landowners and tenant farmers in Italy, and the importance of advancing a shared vision of land management, which has not been facilitated by the new CAP.



F. ASSENZA, M. GUIDI, Ch. BUREN, T. de l'ESCAILLE



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M. GUIDI, M.T. BERTUZZI, G. VISCONTI, C. SOUSA; PLEONARD

Defending the CAP reforms, Director General for International Politics and the EU, Felice ASSENZA commented on the difficulty of achieving stakeholder convergence amongst Italy's regions. He stressed that the agreement reached was the best possible, that it will undergo a health check, and confirmed that Italy is ready to inform Brussels of its decisions with regards to implementation on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014. In response to criticisms of the Greening, the Director General played a positive spin demonstrating the real need during negotiations to have something *"partly environmental and partly agricultural on the table"*. He encouraged close and effective dialogue with the new Commissioner on how issues such as flat rate, active farmer, and increased bureaucracy play out into the future. These discussions will undoubtedly form part of the 2015 Milano Expo on Sustainability, and as summarised by Christoph BÜREN, will relate to the need to strike a balance between regulation, subsidiarity and a common CAP.

The afternoon workshop, entitled 'Agricultural Innovations for a Sustainable Food Security', provided a dynamic public space to exchange ideas and knowledge about practical solutions for sustainability. Speakers included Senator Maria Teresa BERTUZZI; FAO Senior Policy Officer Pierre GERBER; BASF's Celmira Susana SOUSA; I COM Director Dr. Stefano DA EMPOLI; and, European Risk Forum Innovation Task Force Chairman, Paul LEONARD.

Maria Teresa BERTUZZI, Senator of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Council of Europe and the Senate Agricultural Committee, set the scene. She stated that never before has the question of access to food been so key to redressing global imbalances, nor the need for Mem-

ber States to use the resources available in an innovative and cost effective way. Commenting on GMO, she emphasized the need to negotiate ideological battlefields with applied research. Italy has decided to remain GMO free, yet her own view is that there are means and ways of GMO cohabitation if a clearer line is taken by the scientific community.

BASF's Governmental Relations on Plant Biotechnology Official, Celmira Susana SOUSA, and the European Risk Forum Innovation Task Force Chairman, Paul LEONARD's presentations echoed the need to have a balanced regulatory environment for innovation. SOUSA gave excellent examples of innovative products that facilitate more sustainable production, from Draught Resistance Corn, to MAQs Beehive Strips, to Ag-Balance holistic methods for life cycle assessment in the agricultural and food value chain. Both emphasized how investment

in research and innovation fuel productivity and growth, but only when technologies can come to market where regulators have a balanced view on the need for precaution.

Of great added value to this session was the attendance of the Minister for Environment, Land and Sea, Gian Luca GALLETTI. In addressing the conference, the Minister insightfully drew on some common pitfalls when discussing environmental policy. He warned against the trap of talking about a 'green economy'. Rather, we must explain to landowners and agricultural practitioners the economic value of safeguarding the environment. It was previously believed, he argued, that an environmental culture meant prohibitions. In fact, we need a more sophisticated, developed approach that sees environmental protection as a precondition of growth. Today we have alternative techniques and scientific method to guide farming in this way, and these should be used.

Perhaps the key message to take from the speakers in Rome is then, a positive one. If we are to succeed in the challenge of sustainably intensifying agricultural production, with an increasingly differentiated and 'green' CAP, we must stop thinking in terms of constraint. We must look for ways to grow in a new reality, where environmental considerations are not restraints, but provide opportunities for innovation, development and competitive economy. Yet, this switch in attitude must permeate the regulatory environment as much as the landowning community, so that a more positive balance is achieved between innovation, risk, and application.

Emma BAILEY, ELO

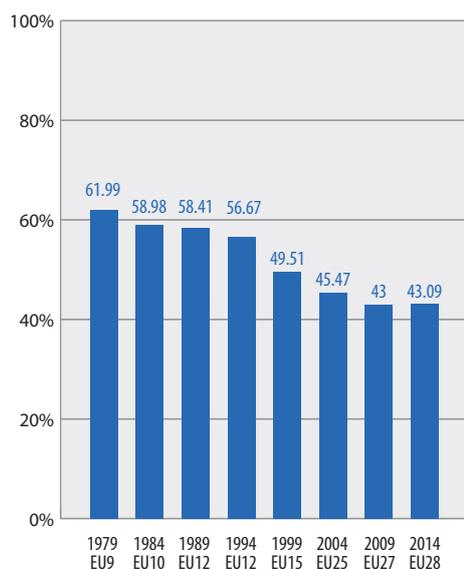


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# Results of the 2014 European Parliament elections

## Turnout

Estimation 25/05/2014 23:58 CEST



Source: TNS/ScytI in cooperation with the European Parliament



EPP: Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)



S&D: Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament



ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe



Greens/EFA: The Greens/European Free Alliance



ECR: European Conservatives and Reformists



GUE/NGL: European United Left/Nordic Green Left



EFD: Europe of freedom and democracy Group



NI: Non-attached Members – Members not belonging to any political group

Others: Newly elected Members not allied to any of the political groups set up in the outgoing Parliament

## Seat by political group and Member State

Country	EPP	S&D	ALDE	Greens/EFA	ECR	GUE/NGL	EFD	NI	Others	Total
European Union	221	191	67	50	68	52	48	43	11	751
Belgium	4	4	6	2	4			1		21
Bulgaria	7	4	4		1				1	17
Czech Republic	7	4	4		2	3	1			21
Denmark	1	3	3	1	4	1				13
Germany	34	27	4	13	8	8			2	96
Estonia	1	1	3	1						6
Ireland	4	1	2			4				11
Greece	5	4			1	6		2	3	21
Spain	17	14	8	4		11				54
France	20	13	7	6		4	1	23		74
Croatia	5	2	2	1	1					11
Italy	17	31				3	17	5		73
Cyprus	2	2				2				6
Latvia	4	1		1	1		1			8
Lithuania	2	2	3	1	1		2			11
Luxembourg	3	1	1	1						6
Hungary	12	4		2				3		21
Malta	3	3								6
Netherlands	5	3	7	2	2	3		4		26
Austria	5	5	1	3				4		18
Poland	23	5			19				4	51
Portugal	7	8	2			4				21
Romania	15	16							1	32
Slovenia	5	1	1	1						8
Slovakia	6	4	1		2					13
Finland	3	2	4	1	2	1				13
Sweden	4	6	3	4		1	2			20
United Kingdom		20	1	6	20	1	24	1		73

Every political group must be made up of 25 MEPs from at least 7 Member States.

## European Award for LIFE+ 3WATER project!

For the first time ever, the European Commission has handed out awards to nature project that have achieved outstanding results in certain categories. The LIFE+ 3watEr project, coordinated by the European Landowners' Organization (ELO) received the first prize in the category of 'cooperation'. The project aims to strengthen the pond area of Midden-Limburg in Belgium through a combination of economy, ecology, and education. The success of this project is largely due to the good cooperation between private landowners, nature organisations and the administration, as well as the support of the European Commission through the LIFE+ Program.

The Life+ 3WATER project has been working for some years to improve the Pond Area of Midden Limburg, near Hasselt in Belgium. During the project, several dozen islands have been created where birds can breed safely, heathlands have been improved and many dikes and ponds have been actively restored and improved. This has all been done while paying attention to economic necessities and the creation of added value for visitors. The area is in the largest complex of ponds and waterways in Belgium.

The project received the European Commissions' Natura 2000 Award due to its innovative cooperation between private landowners, nature organisations and several government bodies. New European and Flemish environmental regulations had often been seen as infringing on the rights of private owners, and this has led to discord in the past. Because the Life+ 3watEr project has taken the wishes of private landowners into account from the start, a much larger area has become available for restoration, and – much more importantly – hugely increased the acceptance of the project in the area.



ing good agreements that ensure that local fish farmers could continue their work while simultaneously improving habitats on their terrain.

Speaking in proud support of the award, Els MARTENS of the Agency of Nature and Forests (ANB), one of the main Life+ 3watEr partners, said that *"this award recognizes and supports the participatory approach that helps all relevant stakeholders integrate nature conservation into their own land use. The aim of ANB, based on this approach, is to bring nature into the heart of society. The stakeholders of the 3watEr project have taken up this challenge and now act as true 'ambassadors for nature'. Through working together we can conserve biodiversity for our wellbeing and that of future generations"*.

The Natura 2000 awards were handed out for the first time this year to attract more attention to the European Commission's work to protect Europe's nature. Natura 2000 is a network of nature sites that

makes up almost 20% of Europe where biodiversity is accorded special protection. The European Commission's funding through the LIFE program has been renewed for the period up to 2020.

Although the current project is nearing completion, the partners participating in Life+ 3watEr have all committed to maintaining their efforts for at least 20 years.

**To learn more, please visit [www.3water.eu](http://www.3water.eu)**

**Robert DE GRAEFF, ELO**  
**MARIE-LAURE VANWANSEELE,**  
**Agency for Nature and Forests**

The project is supported by the European Commission Directorate General Environment under the LIFE+ Nature programme (Grant Agreement N° LIFE08 NAT/B/000036).



According to Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, Secretary-General of the ELO *"the participation of private landowners in this project shows that we are committed to providing a green and prosperous countryside, and that private actors can be just as effective as public bodies in protecting biodiversity"*. Among the attention paid to business owners was mak-

## Agriculture and environment must inevitably go hand in hand to generate economic growth and food safety

*The Conference “Agriculture and Environmental Protection in Central and Eastern Europe: their Contribution to Growth and Employment” took place on May 27th on the premises of the National Bank of Romania in Bucharest. It was attended by some 130 stakeholders from a wide range of disciplines. With this initiative the European League for Economic Cooperation (ELEC) launched its broadened working commission on Agriculture and Environment.*



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The meeting was opened with a word of welcome by Florin GEORGESCU, first vice-governor of the National Bank of Romania and by Radu DEAC, president of ELEC Romania

### **Driver of growth**

In his speech, Daniel CONSTANTIN, Romanian Minister for Agriculture, stressed that agricultural is a key driver of economic growth in his country, where it holds a 5.6% share in the GDP. The country's sunflower production is number one in the EU, and it comes sixth in wheat production. At the same time Romania is trying to strike the balance between production and environmental protection. Demonstrating its good practice, the minister demonstrated that its use of fertilizers was only 46 kg per hectare for the 2010-13 period, versus 51 kg in the UK and 108kg in Austria. The country's challenges are irrigation, lowering energy consumption and healthier sunflower production.

Environment Minister Attila KORODI confirmed that Romania is committed to European policies of environmental protection.

The preservation of species and their habitats is important in a country where 20% of the territory is claimed by agriculture. Intensive agriculture is linked to the fertilizer problem. To ameliorate these issues, the Romanian government is in close contact with its municipalities and performs a lot of mapping and modelling to best channel EU and World Bank funds to vulnerable areas. National parks and forests receive also specific government aid. This is complemented by a national strategy on biodiversity, the use of modern technology, and economic initiatives. Furthermore, the minister stated that climate change requires a long term policy. Attila KORODI concluded that agriculture and environment institutions need a common strategy.

### **Implementing EU directives**

On behalf of the Directorate General for Environment of the European Commission, the floor was taken by Pia BUCELLA, Director of the Natural Capital division. She stated that agriculture and forestry – which take up three quarters of the EU's land use – are of the utmost importance for the en-

vironment. Agriculture and environment need each other, as is clearly seen in floods, health, landscapes, and tourism. Mrs. BUCELLA then stated that farmers claim that they are the guardians of land and environment, but then demonstrated that when the productivity in the dairy sector increases, species and ecosystems come under pressure.

The director listed some of the challenges faced by the EU; with only 7% of the EU's habitats in a good environmental state, threats to soil quality by erosion, as well as water pollution and its inefficient use in irrigation systems. These threats imply that changes are due in the production and in the production system. The EU has proclaimed a large number of directives, also in agriculture, but she reminded the audience that everything depends on their implementation by member states; the more they apply the regulations, the less public money needs to be spent in the end. On growth and employment, Pia BUCELLA stressed that one cannot have economic growth if the environment is not cared for. On the contrary, environment services of-

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P. BUCELLA

fer real job opportunities; a country such as Romania has high value areas and tourism possibilities. Finally, she congratulated Romania on recently winning the first Natura 2000 socio-economic benefits award for the Sighişoara-Târnavă Mare project in Transylvania that provides economic growth and sustainable livelihoods in a rural area for 2.300 farming families.

A much awaited speaker – not in the least judged by the media scrum afterwards – was Dacian CIOLOS, Commissioner for Agriculture. He stressed that this conference was not only about agriculture and environment, but most of all about health. On the one hand, one has to take into account that the demand for food has grown enormously, with the number of consumers is rising in all segments: young and old, in continents such as Asia and others, and all of them demanding more qualitative food. On the other, losses in the food chain are unacceptably high, amounting to 30% in the EU, mostly in higher-income regions. This increasing demand for food is met with a loss in natural resources through soil erosion, urbanization, loss of land fertility, losses in biodiversity and other factors.

According to the Commissioner, we must engage with these issues, or European competitiveness will suffer. Furthermore, health hazards may trigger economic risks as they can disrupt stable markets and entire economies. The EU must consider global issues. The reform of agriculture policies should include risk management, national resource management and a public goods theory that takes into account farmers, taxpayers and consumers. "Sustainable competitiveness" will be the issue, stressed the Commissioner. This will require not only preventive measures but also more innovation and research. The EU agriculture market still has growth potential, certainly in Eastern Europe, but it should include sustainability

and aim at diversity, not at a single policy. At the same time, price and income volatility discourages farmers and investors. Internationally, poor countries are not helped by export subsidies that create artificial low prices. Instead, we should focus on a production policy. In international trade the EU should promote high value added products, not raw materials and should give attention to health, combating poverty, and environmental protection. The synergy of all these factors should lead to sustainable competitiveness.

The keynote speeches were followed by two panel discussions on agriculture and environment, giving a greater insight on Romanian and Central Europe characteristics. Representing the ELO, Emmanuelle MIKOSZ warned that a common approach of agriculture and environment should first

of all lead to profitable business, as farmers will leave if it is not. The preliminary conclusions of the conference were drawn by Pia BUCELLA, who stressed that "we heard such an overwhelming number of contributions, as if this was the first time farmers, politicians and other stakeholders came together! (...) This dialogue must continue". The final contribution of the day was made by ELEC president Bernard SNOY.

(red.)

Source: <http://www.eleclece.eu/en/commissions/agriculture>

**The ELO congratulates Valeriu STERIU, newly elected president of the ELEC Agriculture and Environment Committee. He is member of the Romanian parliament and former secretary of state for agriculture in charge of European integration.**



## LAPAR General Assembly

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, ELO representatives were honoured to attend the General Assembly of LAPAR, the largest Romanian agricultural organisation, which joined the ELO in December 2013. At a gathering of over 1.200 participants, the opening speech was given by Traian BĂSESCU, President of Romania and member of LAPAR; Daniel CONSTANTIN, the Romanian Vice-Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister; Laurentiu BACIU, LAPAR's President, ELO Secretary-General Thierry de l'ESCAILLE and many other distinguished guests.

During the day, three issues emerged clearly; the need for land consolidation, an evolution of relations with the EU in cases such as access to innovation and the use of plant protection products and relations with foreign and national investors. The recent ban on neonicotinoids was especially vital as Romania's sunflower and maize production were almost destroyed due to pests previously controlled through products containing neonics.

At the event, all farmers underlined the need to be efficient and competitive in order to be able to embrace more environmental requirements.

(red.)

## The Trouble with Innovation

*9 billion people by 2050; for those of us working in the agricultural sector of Brussels, it has achieved a familiar rhyme and rhythm. It has become a mantra, invoked at every conference, event, and most press releases. Perhaps this is so because it encapsulates a fundamental truth – we must continue to prove Thomas Malthus wrong; that it is possible to increase food production and keep up with population growth.*

In order to do this, to achieve food safety and security in the coming decades, there is little doubt that our agricultural models desperately need innovation. Whether one favours agro-ecology, sustainable intensification, organic farming, or the application of GM technology, there is a common consensus that we must overhaul our current practices and embrace innovation in all its facets.

Yet we do not do this – agricultural innovation has become stifled, stilted, and ignored. The substantial gains of the past decades have not been continued; we are not increasing our yield per hectares as much as we could and should. New agricultural technologies are mistrusted and feared, rather than embraced, and our research facilities are decamping for South America and the US, where they are warmly welcomed.

Lack of trust lies at the core of our stumpled progress. The golden triangle between government, science and business, and producers and users has been substantially broken. Consumers no longer know or understand modern agriculture, government has become sceptical or even fearful of innovation, and scientists are no longer fully believed by either side. This lack of belief is exacerbated by the complexity of modern science, where often any side of an argument can claim credible scientific evidence to support its own position. Europe now exists in a world where it wants the benefits of innovation, but is not prepared to accept the measures of risk coming with new solutions. Furthermore, agriculture no longer has primacy of place on the European agenda, which has resulted in a lack of interest and care for its ur-



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gently needed reform through innovation.

This lack of risk acceptance is carried through at the European level. From the struggle over GM technology to companies spending 80% of their R&D budget on compliance; regulatory burdens are increasing to unsustainable levels.

For farmers, a lack of trust and the absence of proper risk/benefit analysis have only delivered a reduction in the choices they can make. With fewer products on the market and a blocked pipeline of new developments, we are rushing towards a situation wherein uniformity is the outcome by force, not desire.

The solution lies in rebuilding trust together. This will require a twofold approach that is based on communication. The first branch is the (further) integration of sound scientific advisory services within all European institutions.

Before taking legislative decisions, MEPs should take into account the opinions of relevant scientific bodies, and be given ample and easy access to a wide variety of qualified sources to whom they can address questions. Similarly, risk/benefit analyses should be a standard part of the decision-making process, as should regular, well-informed briefings on scientific evidence and a thorough understanding of current practice. This could be achieved through the further integration and expansion of the office of the chief scientific advisor at the European Commission.

The second strategy for rebuilding trust should be an opening of doors. The concept of open farm days is growing in Europe, and every effort should be made to expand these. However, we

should be honest on such days: show not only the 'postcard' side of modern farming, but demonstrate how these enterprises really work – only this can lead to mutual understanding. A similar approach is needed at the innovation level; universities and companies must demonstrate their efforts and communicate openly, not only about the positive aspects, but about associated risk and threats as well.

All stakeholders benefit from having access to a broad spectrum of quality information, and ignorance only breeds fear of the unknown.

**Robert de GRAEFF, ELO**

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# Getting Over the Sixties

*Achieving global food security requires the participation of all who produce and consume food, both now and for years to come. Today's food systems produce enough to feed everyone on the planet, but hunger persists due to pricing, availability, choice and waste.*

It would be unfair to judge these factors as 'unsustainable'. Balances in production, price, choice and wastage from market to market are reasonable to some and trade-offs must be made. The consequence is overproduction, requiring inputs and resources, in some places; dumping and subsidies elsewhere; while shelves, stalls and bellies remain empty for some.

This system exists as a legacy of regulations, infrastructure and mind-sets cultivated over time, but "we cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them" said Einstein. Fortunately, the world that needs food security solutions is very different from that which originally created the food systems we use today. The Green Revolution of the 60s increased agricultural production worldwide. It introduced high-yielding grain varieties and seed hybrids, synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, expanded irrigation and 'industrial' agricultural management practices. The value of these advances is undeniable. But the hubris of the Sixties didn't anticipate the cumulative and aggregate effects of monocultures, seed sterility, chemical pollution and soil depletion, coupled with increasing dependence on waning fossil-fuels and water; and it presumed climate stability. The decisions taken then, leading to systems now, didn't have satellite mapping, genomics, GPS, Facebook, mobile telecoms, common markets, or cheap global shipping.

Although we are massively aware, we are not fully applying our tools of awareness in developing solutions for food security. Our slowness to evolve at the pace of our knowledge, technology and capacity is unsustainable.

We should start where all food starts: at a billion farms worldwide. If this base does not buy-in to the strategies of multinational companies that talk sustainability there will be no walk to food security. To do so we must rethink the governance of agriculture from 'supply chains' to 'demand chains'. Commodity supply chains using

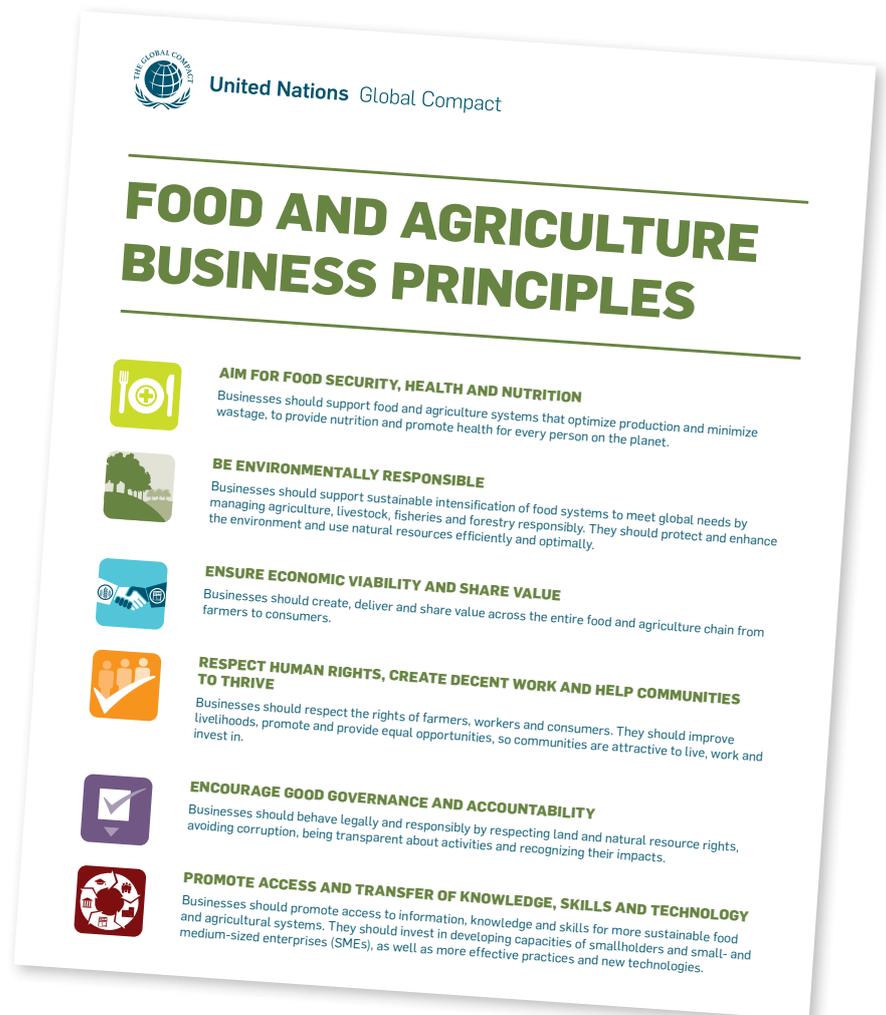
scale, standardisation and imports have set a high bar and low prices on what we expect all year around in our stores and on our plates. Demand chains will now select for what actors at every point on the value chain requires the system to deliver: safe, nutritious food demanded by consumers, produced responsibly by companies demanding respect for farmers who demand equity and good livelihoods.

In the past every actor was invisible behind a big brand. Even if our parents had presumed to ask questions about their food, companies probably couldn't have answered them. *Imagine the cost of 'traceability' without computers, the Internet or networked communications!* But today we can have, and require, food systems that reveal

which farmers were involved, who handled the produce and how, what resources were involved in every stage of production and delivery, whether all involved were properly treated and respected, if any additives were made for our health and nutrition, and whether a Google search says a brand is environmentally sound and can be trusted. We should be able to know if we want to.

The UN Global Compact's Food and Agriculture Business Principles are for farmers concerned with scale, equity and are ready to solve problems with different thinking than we used when we created them.

**Puvan J SELVANATHAN,**  
Head of Food and Agriculture  
at the United Nations Global Compact.





# HERCULES puts cultural landscapes back on the agenda

The first HERCULES' EU Level Stakeholder Workshop took place on the 23rd May, entitled 'European Cultural Landscapes at a Crossroads'.



**H**ERCULES is a new research project funded by the EU's 7th Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration, with 13 partners involved. The project promotes sustainable management and good landscape practices through public and private cooperation, as these cultural landscapes offer tremendous value in their contribution to Europe's historical and natural heritage, in their aesthetic and recreational scenery, as well as in the ecosystem services they provide. However, such landscapes are subject to the dangers generated by increased rural abandonment, intensification of land-use and urbanisation.

The project's first workshop, which was organized by the European Landowners' Organization (ELO), gathered more than 40 representatives from the European Commission, practitioners, NGOs, SMEs and the scientific community to discuss the current situation of cultural landscapes.

Following an introduction to HERCULES by the project coordinator, Tobias PLIENINGER, the workshop offered various perspectives on the current condition of cultural land-

scapes, through presentations by Professor Peter HOWARD, a visiting professor from Bournemouth University; Tom JONES, Member of the Bureau of the Specialized Section NAT (Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment), at the European Economic and Social Committee; Christos FRAGAKIS, Deputy Head of Unity of the Unit on Management of Natural Resources at DG Research and Innovation, European Commission; Rodolphe de LOOZ-CORSWAREM, President of the European Historic Houses Association; and Matej BATIČ, a senior programmer from Sinergise.

The first part of the meeting was dominated by the relationships between cultural landscapes and society. "Landscape does belong to everyone" said Tom JONES "if you want to manage the landscape you have to speak to landowners..."; "...quality landscape means that there has to be an intervention..."; therefore society must continue to reward landowners for providing the extra services they perform. On the other hand, Christos FRAGAKIS argued that "science should become a part of the solution" and landscapes have to be seated in a multi-stakeholder

perspective: "we need to find the right ways [of] how to involve new actors like, for example, the economic actors".

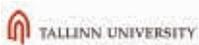
The second part of the meeting urged the participants to find solutions: "While nature can be re-created or re-introduced, cultural landscapes – and particularly their built components, such as historic houses – are essentially non-renewable. Once the historic elements within them have been degraded or lost, they are gone forever." – Rodolphe de LOOZ-CORSWAREM argued that landowners and rural stakeholders in general were most apt to make the right decisions when it comes to responsible and sustainable land stewardship, as their time horizon is not measured in 4 or 5 year electoral mandates but in lifetimes and generations.

This workshop was the first occasion of the "Dialogue for Landscape Actions", the series of events that HERCULES is eager to elaborate both at EU and study landscape level. The project partners, led by the ELO, are planning to elaborate several workshops during the next 3 years to bring together different stakeholders, including policy makers, farmers, practitioners, scientists, NGOs and industry to make cultural landscapes an integral part of future discussions.

A short report as well as the presentations of the speakers are available at the project's website: [www.hercules-landscapes.eu](http://www.hercules-landscapes.eu)

**JULIANNA NAGY,**  
ELO Project Coordinator

Subscribe to our  
Cultural Landscapes Blog at: <http://www.hercules-landscapes.eu/blog.php>





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J. POTOČNIK

## Green Week 2014 « Circular Economy, Resource Efficiency & Waste »

Green Week 2014, the biggest annual conference on European environmental policy, recently took place from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June in Brussels, on the theme of ‘**Circular Economy, Resource Efficiency & Waste**’.

A circular economy is the logical solution for a resource-constrained world. It is a place where almost nothing is wasted, where the re-use and remanufacturing of products has become standard practice, and where sustainability is built into the fabric of society. In 2014 the Commission will set out new proposals enabling Europe to unlock the potential of the circular economy, underlining the need to change our way of thinking about design. There will also be a focus on better waste management, and on how it can help the EU to use its resources more efficiently.

Green Week has become a unique opportunity for debate and exchanges of experience and best practice. Over the past decade, the conference has established itself as an unmissable event for anyone involved in protecting the environment. The 2013 Green Week attracted some 2.100 participants.

As in the past, the *ELO* together with *Friends of the Countryside (FCS)* and *European Cork Confederation* were represented at two stands, explaining how dynamic countryside entrepreneurs are dedicated to modern and sustainable management principles in rural businesses with members across the European Union.

(red.)

source: <http://www.greenweek2014.eu/>

## The European Tree of the Year 2014 is a Thousand-years Old Elm from Bulgaria

The **European Landowners’ Organization** together with the Czech Environmental Partnership Foundation and Tetra Pak has organized already the fourth Award ceremony of the European Tree of the Year (**ETY**). An award ceremony took place on 19<sup>th</sup> March in the European Parliament, Brussels. The contest had been organised under the patronage of the European Commissioner for Environment, Janez POTOČNIK, and MEP Pavel POC, who also hosted the event. Also attending were important political figures, the nominators of all trees and about 300 other visitors. The winner, having received more than 77 thousand votes, is an elm from the Bulgarian town of Sliven  
Source : <http://www.treeoftheyear.org>



T.DE L'ESCAILLE, L.MIKO AND THE WINNER

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## François SOMMER Foundation Award

On March 13, Philippe DULAC, the President of the François SOMMER Foundation, awarded for the first time the *François SOMMER Prize for Man and Nature*. It was given to Clément SANCHEZ, celebrating his life's work. With a 50.000€ endowment, this biennial prize is attributed by a jury of eminent intellectuals.

Clément SANCHEZ is rewarded for his life's work, of which one of the aims is the development of bio-inspired hybrid materials with hierarchical structures. **In the living world, nature is often led to combine organic and mineral components** to create high-performance nanocomposites. Shells, the exoskeleton of crustaceans, and bones are just a few examples of natural hybrid materials.

In order to understand these complex systems and to master their manufacturing, Clément SANCHEZ implemented experiment that enables the analysis of all states and scales of matter, from molecule to material, by observing nature. The “soft chemistry” that Clément SANCHEZ has applied for more than 20 years allows for the creation of new hybrid materials, more performant than materials used until today: non-polluting, self-repairing and biodegradable. At the nexus of chemistry, physics, biology and materials science, the scope of hybrid materials chemistry has already significantly widened, finding applications in many domains (automobile, construction, textile, packaging, thermal or sound insulation, functional coatings, cosmetics, micro-optics, micro-electronics, photonics, new multifunctional therapeutic vectors, environmental sciences).

The contribution by Clément SANCHEZ to hybrid materials chemistry has gained him more than 50 patents of which a majority have found commercial applications. These hybrid materials in particular open the way for progressively replacing synthetic polymers – such as plastics – that have invaded our lives throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, often with negative effects.

Source: [www.fondationfrancoissommer.org](http://www.fondationfrancoissommer.org)





## Agreement for the establishment of the EU platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores - historic signature!



*The coexistence between people and large carnivores has always been a subject of debate and represents a central issue in conservation policy, especially as the number of large carnivores is increasing. Large carnivores have no perception about the limits of private/public land, population, protected areas and/or between neighboring lands.*

Their expansion poses particular challenges for farmers, hunters and conservationists across borders, despite their different visions for the European landscape. In Natura 2000 sites where emphasis is placed on maintaining livestock grazing to conserve specific traditional landscapes, a potential conflict arises between carnivores and livestock. Even though the Habitats Directive allows Member States to take specific local circumstances into account in implementation, the approach taken in an area where large carnivores have always existed will be different from the one taken in an area where large carnivores are returning after a period of absence, where citizens have lost the habit of coexistence.

In response to these challenges, the European Commission has initiated a range of measures to encourage cooperation. The first concrete outcome of this initiative has been the establishment, on the **10<sup>th</sup> of June 2014, of the EU platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores, under the auspices of Commissioner for Environment, Janez POTOČNIK**. The agreement was signed in the Committee of the Regions, Brussels, by high level representatives of eight stakeholder organizations including the ELO.

In the afternoon, the ELO was proud to be elected by consensus as a co-chair for the Platform with the Commission representative for a period of two years. The ELO has promoted dialogue for years as the best

way to achieve sustainable management of wildlife. Through the *Wildlife Estates Label*, for example, we showcase exemplary estates and managers, playing a vital role for the environment and facilitating the necessary balance between wildlife and human

activities. The Platform is in direct line with our philosophy of action, which is focused on dialogue and communication.

**Delphine DUPEUX, ELO**

## CIC General Assembly 2014 – Milan, Italy

The 61<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) in Milan, Italy, under the title "Youth, Hunting and Biodiversity" ended on 26 April 2014, after four days and with some 450 participants.

Highlights included the re-election of Bernard LOZÉ for a second term as President of the CIC and the announcement of a new **4-year CIC Campaign Plan** during the opening session. President LOZÉ also announced the new **CIC Conservation Fund**, to which he personally committed a substantial amount.

The contributions of Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, ELO Secretary General, to the technical session on *Certification of Sustainable Hunting* were hugely valuable, especially given the wealth of experience the ELO has with the Wildlife Estate Label.

In addition to the technical sessions, there was a *Global Summit - Hunters United against Wildlife Crime*. The Summit resulted in the **Milan Declaration – Hunters United Against Wildlife Crime**, which was unanimously approved during the closing session.

President LOZÉ explained "that the efforts of the CIC leadership will target six strategic areas: recognition of hunting as Living Human Heritage; wildlife conservation through science-based sustainable use options; strengthening the network of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management; creating a sound financial basis through the CIC Conservation Fund; increasing state membership in particular in Africa and Asia; and finally, translating the **Milan Declaration** into action plans for African and Asian nations to curtail wildlife crime."

The 62<sup>nd</sup> CIC General Assembly will be hosted by Bulgaria in April 2015.

**CIC Team**





## An update on YFCS activities.

Since the beginning of the year, YFCS has been active in recruiting and organizing events. Our main event was a weekend organised around the second edition of the Forum for Countryside Entrepreneurship, which took place in Belgium at the Castle of Duras in early February.

Bringing together young entrepreneurs with a wide range of high-level speakers, including guest-speakers from The Edmond de ROTHSCHILD Group, from new start-ups such as MyMicroInvest, and, Rudolf STROHMEIER – Deputy Director General for Research and Innovation at the EU Commission. The feedback of participants was very positive and encouraged us to organize an even better event next year.

At the end of the conference, a presentation about the **Famigro Entrepreneurship Award** was given, explaining the scope of this award and rules for applying. The jury for the Famigro Award has received five applications and will review them in the coming months in order to announce the winner during the **upcoming YFCS General Assembly in Lisbon – 11th – 14th September, 2014**, across a three-day weekend. The programme will include conferences with top-level speakers, visits to several estates, wine tasting, guided tours of Lisbon and a fantastic opportunity to meet people of the same generation who share similar interests. All Young Friends of the Countryside members are invited to participate and we do hope that many of our young members will attend.

Following the great success of last year's **local event in the Czech Republic**, and thanks to the precious help of our Czech ambassadors, we will be holding another event for our current and potential future Czech members this summer.

Coming up shortly is the annual **CLA Game Fair, which will be held at Blenheim Palace (UK), on the weekend of 18th – 20th of July**. The YFCS will attend once again, and has planned a great programme for the weekend including a day at the game fair followed by a diner and a day out in the historic University City of Oxford.

In order to keep up with the latest technologies, the YFCS Board has also decided

to introduce a new system for the payment of membership fees. Members are now able to fill in our automatic payment form so they will not have to worry about their membership payment anymore. This will also ensure a steady revenue, which will allow our organization to increase the range of its activities. If you have any questions concerning the automatic payment form or any general questions or feedback,

please do not hesitate to contact the Board at [sg@yfcs.eu](mailto:sg@yfcs.eu)

We do hope to see many of our members at our future events – And of course, don't forget to follow us on Facebook or the YFCS Trusted Network!

**Agnès de LIEDEKERKE BEAUFORT**,  
member of YFCS



# AGRILAND



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## Internship at the European Landowner's Organization (ELO)

Last summer, as a member of the Young Friends of the Countryside (YFCS), I was given the great opportunity to complete a traineeship at the European Landowners' Organization in their offices in Brussels. This was a fantastic experience, offered exclusively to YFCS members, which I would highly recommend to anyone interested in rural policies and opportunities in the countryside.

As part of my internship, I acquired valuable insight into the ELO's activities, ranging from being allowed to lead correspondences in delicate matters to designing several banners used as key communication tools for the ELO lobby.

Furthermore, I also had the chance to work closely with the YFCS organisation and, thanks to the great support of the YFCS Board, I was able to interact as the link between ELO and YFCS. My tasks were very diverse and, amongst other things, I worked on a report to see how we could increase the visibility and recognition of the organisation. This included administration, coordination and being in touch with the association's members. This allowed me to better understand its structure and aim. I have now realised the numerous advantages of being part of YFCS and what it can bring to young people of our generation.

It was also a great opportunity to meet lots

of people interested in the promotion and development of new businesses and new technologies in the countryside.

Ultimately, being allowed to represent ELO at various meetings in Brussels and attend different events organised by YFCS such as the local event, which took place over the summer in Czech Republic, made the internship at the ELO a memorable and highly beneficial experience.

Being situated in Brussels, it is the ideal location to gain a greater understanding of the EU and of a lobby sitting in the heart of Europe!

**Marie-Christine SCHÖNBORN,**  
member of YFCS

## The new journal on land issues

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, the first issue will be published of a new bimonthly journal entitled "*La revue foncière*", and dedicated – as its title suggests – to land-related issues.

The journal picks up where the now extinct publication "*Études foncières*" left off, a publication that had been overseen by Adef for about 30 years. This "*association des études foncières*" which, in the last few years, had concerned itself more with communications than analysis, was struck with a court-ordered liquidation around the end of 2013 after it organized many ambitious "*assises nationales du foncier*" – annual conferences featuring debates about land use issues – which left the Adef with substantial levels of debt, despite public subsidies. The new journal stems from an initiative taken by some 40 authors of the old one, with the aim of finding themselves a publishing company. They include academics (law professors, economists, geographers, sociologists, historians etc...) as well as professionals (real estate promoters, lawyers, consultants, planning agencies, surveyors, etc...). Property issues do not belong to one single profession, nor to a single subject. There are no professors of land use issues. Therefore, the objective is to create a space for debates and exchanges between specialists of diverse origins who have a common interest in land issues, approaching them from different angles.

The subjects of the article that are expected to be published in the upcoming issues give an idea of the range of topics covered:

- Legislative and regulatory incontinence regarding land use policies
- Taxation of real estate capital gains to finance the draining of marshes and urban development: a Napoleonic utopia.
- The economics of parking, a Rosetta Stone of the urban economy
- The future of the Common Agricultural Policy: must we help the hectares?
- Comparison of statistical analysis techniques to measure land use changes
- Corruption related to property and environmental regulations
- The often surprising negotiations of new inter-municipal associations
- The building permit, a power
- The conditions for expropriation and rehabilitation of large and degraded co-owned lands
- A comparative analysis of the provisions of 150 Local Urbanism Plans
- The instruments of land use planning in the new legislative reforms in Belgium
- Small, undocumented landowners in Third World countries against agri-business

And in each issue:

- A recap of land use current events
- Chronicles of case law
- Practical questions of real estate valuation

For all questions and for sending drafts: [contact@revue-fonciere.com](mailto:contact@revue-fonciere.com)  
or *La revue foncière*, 9 rue de Penthièvre, 75008 Paris



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## BE AWARE OF THE BEE AWARD!

**ELO proudly presents: the "Bee Award" for the protection of pollinators.**

As part of its continuous commitment to promote common solutions for the benefit of biodiversity, the European Landowners' Organization is proud to present the "Bee Award". Supported by the European Agricultural Machinery Association CEMA ([www.cema-agri.org](http://www.cema-agri.org)) and a prize money of 5,000€, this new award aims to reward landowners who implement outstanding projects for the protection of bees and other pollinators. The jury will be composed of international experts, representatives of the European institutions and NGOs. More information on how to participate and a call for applications will be announced shortly. Keep updated through ELO's website: [www.elo.org](http://www.elo.org)

**For more information please contact the award coordinator at: [ana.canomaniuel@elo.org](mailto:ana.canomaniuel@elo.org)**

## Friedrich von SCHWARZENBERG passed away



On April 13th, Friedrich von SCHWARZENBERG passed away to join The Lord and his forefathers. This sad loss leaves his family, friends, and all who had the fortune to be touched by his great character, with a void that can only be lessened by his memory and the certainty that he is now at peace.

"Beda" - as he was known by his Czech friends - had a deep love for Nature. Being a man of action and reflexion, he was more interested in the interactions between Nature and mankind than the contemplation of an elusive and somewhat mythical "primitive" state of Nature. He knew all too well that if we want to protect Nature, we must "steer it around" the interactions of human kind. This knowledge, combined with the constant pursuit of a meaningful life and a strong sense of responsibility, fuelled his interest and involvement in the Friends of the Countryside and the causes we defend.

He was an ardent proponent for cooperation amongst private land owners after the restitution laws were passed in the Czech Republic in the beginning of the 1990s. Like many others, he took it upon himself to rebuild his family's legacy in the Czech Republic, also contributing to rebuilding the future of his country following the fall of the Communist regime. Amongst his most notable achievements, one could mention his efforts towards the creation of the Private Chamber of Czech Forestry Owners (SVOL) and its accession as a member of the ELO. For a long time he sat as chairman of the Czech branch of PEFC, with the effect that the majority of forestry certifications in the country today are PEFC-stamped. Knowing how important informing the general public is to our cause, he was always ready to discuss and defend the role of private owners as stewards and trustees of nature's capital. He was undoubtedly an excellent networker, and could push through anything he thought would help raise the Czech Republic to EU standards.

Lastly, one remembers that every task he undertook was handled with the highest degree of professionalism, due concern for putting teams and sustainable structures in place, the utmost generosity, and a wonderful sense of humour.

He was a truly great man, husband, father and Friend. He will be dearly missed; but, his life and character will certainly have inspired many and without a doubt his presence will be felt amongst those who knew him.

**Thierry de l'ESCAILLE**

### DIARY DATES 2014

#### 1- 2nd July, Vienna City Hall

Annual Conference of the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme  
[www.central2013.eu](http://www.central2013.eu)

#### 2 - 4th September, Holkam Estate, UK

Wildlife Estate Plenary Session  
[www.wildlife-estates.eu](http://www.wildlife-estates.eu)

#### 23rd September, New York

UN's Climate Summit - catalyzing action  
[www.un.org/climatechange](http://www.un.org/climatechange)

#### 25 - 26th September, Bucharest

Regional Forum for the Future of Agriculture in Romania, co-organised by ELO, Syngenta and LAPAR  
[www.forumforagriculture.com](http://www.forumforagriculture.com)

#### 30th September - 1 October, Copenhagen

Regional Forum for the Future of Agriculture in Denmark, followed by a field trip in Sweden; co-organised by ELO, Syngenta, Danske Godser og Herregårde - DGH and SVERIGES JORDÅGAREFÖRBUND.  
[www.forumforagriculture.com](http://www.forumforagriculture.com)

#### 3- 5th October, Lisbon

European Historic Houses General Assembly  
[www.europeanhistorichouses.eu](http://www.europeanhistorichouses.eu)

#### 16th October, World Food Day

Celebrated every year around the world in honour of the date of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)  
[www.worldfooddayusa.org/events](http://www.worldfooddayusa.org/events)



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