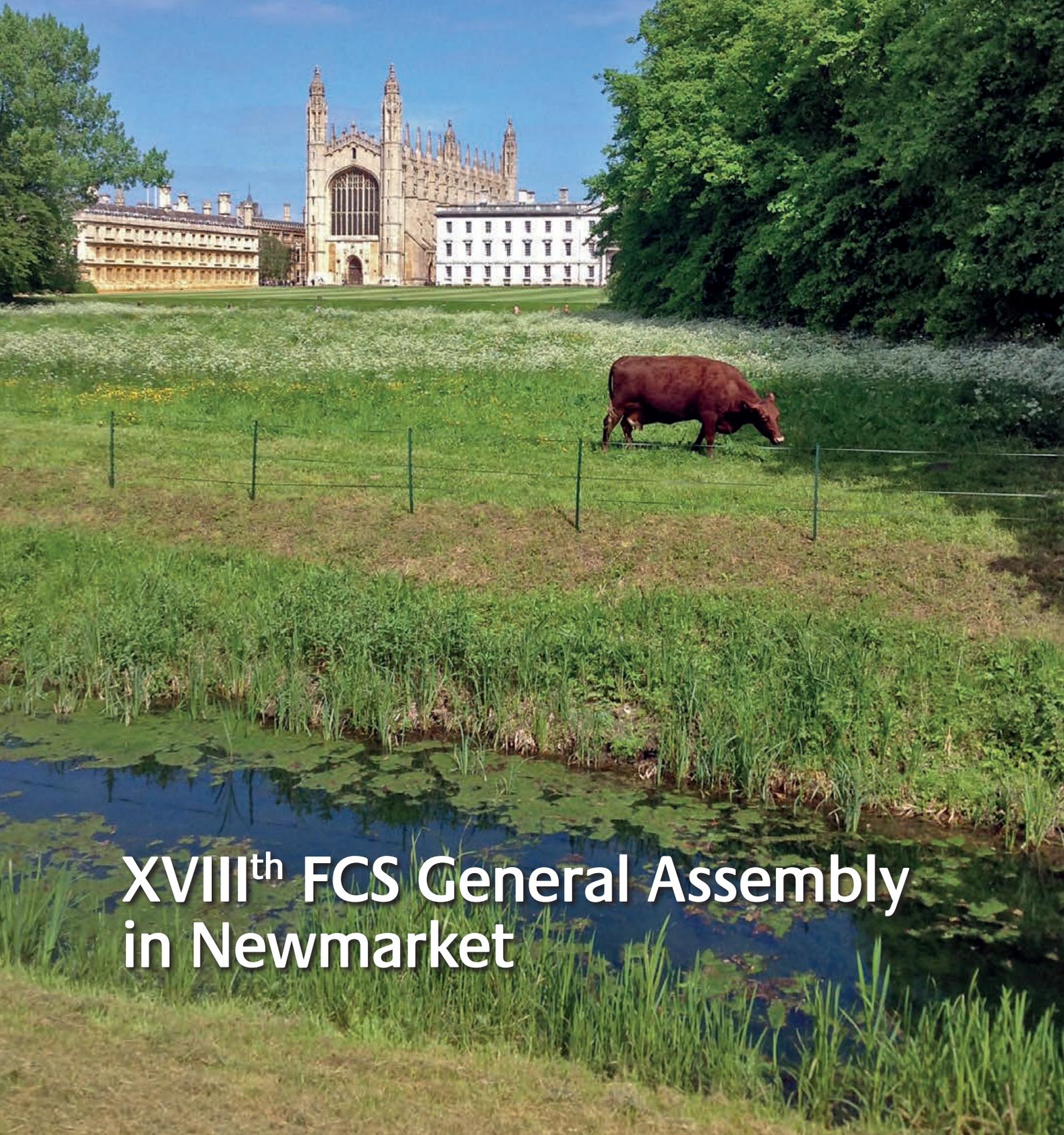


# CountrySide

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European Landowners' Organization

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**XVIII<sup>th</sup> FCS General Assembly  
in Newmarket**



# Editorial

Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, *Secretary General*

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*As this edition goes to press, European and American farmers together are harvesting the summer wheat crop. It is a massive and sustained effort that involves men, machines, and all the tools of the modern farm. However, with farm consolidation and an international market, it is important the Europe's land managers maintain their edge when they have high fixed costs such as labour and land.*

*One of the best ways to increase farm income and protect our environment is to farm smarter. To do this, we will need all the data we can get – on our soils, on the weather, on everything in and around our farms.*

*Today we are seeing a quiet revolution in the way we gather and interpret our data. New EU rules on drones are on the way, agricultural sensors are improving and we are getting close to tractors that can drive by themselves. Faster and better computer systems will help transform these numbers into practical farm advice.*

*These solutions are part of Europe's innovative agricultural potential; created by the public and private sectors together and delivered through the open market, they represent some of our finest innovative potential and a vital tool for landowners.*

*The ELO has always been a firm believer in the need for agricultural modernization, and we are therefore glad to publish our new brochure on farming and innovation. I invite all our readers to visit our website and conferences to pick up your copy.*



## XVIII<sup>th</sup> FCS General Assembly in Newmarket

*On the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015, over 250 Friends gathered in beautiful Newmarket, UK for the XVIII<sup>th</sup> Friends of the Countryside (FCS) General Assembly and conference. President Michael Prinz ZU Salm-Salm and Michael SAYER, acting on behalf the Friends in the UK, welcomed all FCS members.*

Jehanne de DORLODOT, Clara MORENO



The President noted the continued collaboration between FCS and ELO, as well with its sponsors, which allowed the organisations to create events such as the *Forum for the Future of Agriculture* (FFA), the Wildlife Estates label and their collaboration with European Historic Houses Association (EHHA). He presented special thanks to Seger van VOORST tot VOORST for his *Welcoming Estates* initiative. Special thanks were also presented to Corrado and Cecile PIRZIO BIROLI for the last year Congress in Udine; and a special farewell to Marques de VALDUEZA, who resigns as Vice-president, for his time and effort. Further leaving the board were Teresa MURUBE, Charles-Hubert de BRANTES and Mark THOMASIN-FOSTER who gave their time and efforts over the years. The General Assembly unanimously approved the elections to the Board of Marques de Armunia and Caroline RATCLIFF and confirmed Marques de Melgarejo as Vice-President. Several new members of the Friends were also welcomed. The General Assembly approved unanimously the new statutes and expressed their positive attitude towards the new Memorandum of Understanding between ELO and FCS. Special thanks were addresses to Michael SAYER for his hard work on the revised statutes and to Charles KEANE for his many years of work as treasurer.

Presenting the activities of the ELO, Secretary General Thierry de l'ESCAILLE underlined the importance of the input and support of the FCS which provides good examples of the daily life of estate managers. He pointed also the importance of working with the *Young Friends* (YFCS), the RISE Foundation and EHHA. He presented the ELO policy work, projects, and awards of the ELO, expressing his gratitude to Johan NORDENFALK for his support of these awards. Marie-Christine SCHÖNBORN spoke about the goals of the YFCS, noting that the membership has grown from 47 to 234 in 2014, with the strongest representation in Germa-

ny and Belgium. She presented the outcomes of the *Forum for Countryside Entrepreneurship* and the call for the FAMIGRO Award. That was followed by the presentation of the Welcoming Estates website project by Louis de NASSAU.

Günther Graf von der SCHULENBURG invited all FCS members to join the **2016 FCS GA in Germany**, centred around the city of Wolfsburg, to demonstrate the possibilities for combining countryside and estate management in an industrial region.

After the General Assembly, the Friends and wider public were invited to take part in a topical and very engaging conference, which tackled the issue of „**Rising to the Challenge: Diversification, Innovation and Environment for a Green and pleasant land**“. Opening with a keynote speech, Richard BENYON, Member of Parliament focused on the risks and opportunities faced as landowners in UK. He underlined that *“ownership is a concept that everyone understands if you are talking about, for example, a car. A car owner knows he has to drive it safely but beyond that he can do with it what he want. Ownership of land is not so simple. Landowners are unable to do many things that are associated to the idea of ownership. Beyond things, the word landowner is wrong. If you own a factory, the only people interested in it are the employees and the customers. Landownership seems to be everyone's concern. People mind what we do with nature. It is our duty to inform them of what we are doing”*. He named four risks each landowner has to face: taxation, succession, direct trading and an increased cost of compliance with environmental regulations and *“reality”* such as increased water abstraction in a hotter world. Despite all those and other risks, he concluded his speech saying: *“By way of conclusion I'm going to give you seven reasons to be cheerful:*

1. *Managing land is fun. No two days are*

*the same and it involves big decisions. A day farming or land managing is rewarding. More than that, I would say we are lucky to be given the chance to do it.*

2. *By all measures, land continues to be one of the most stable investments you can make. We have yet to find a way of making more of it so if supply can't increase, the demand will always be there.*
3. *In my belief we are on the threshold of a rural renaissance. Through the roll-out of superfast broadband and enlightened planning changes we will see businesses and tech companies thriving in rural areas as easily as cities.*
4. *Science is making farming easier and more productive. A field can now be drilled by satellite. Fertilisers and sprays can be applied by precision methods which ensure less is needed and that next to none ends up in our rivers.*
5. *The new breed of entrepreneur farmer and Estate owner is hugely impressive. The thirty-somethings now taking over businesses are tackling the challenges head on with professionalism and with a marked lack of what has defined farmers down the ages – a tendency to whinge.*
6. *The huge demand by Government and wider society to end the decline in biodiversity puts land managers right at the heart of resolving a national and pan-national imperative. No time to discuss it here but I can take you to places where landowners are leading projects that are having a wonderful effect across vast landscapes and in the hearts of local people.*
7. *As the former Government Chief Scientist, Professor Sir John BEDDINGTON said, by 2030 we could be facing the perfect storm of a shortage of food, water and energy. To many that is a*



*reason to fear. To land managers that is a reason to cheer. They have the ability to produce all three and be rewarded for doing so."*

David HORTON-FAWKES, Director of the Holkham Estate continued with a very lively presentation of the three basic 'S' allowing to run a successful estate: Strategy, Structure, and Standards (*red. please read the article p.7*).

The effects of climate on seeds were presented by Dr. Gordon JAMIESON from John Innes Centre, who underlined that climate shifted over the past 3 decades have been linked to a 5.5% decline in global wheat production. The UK government is very active in finding genetics solutions to increase variations and reduce the sensitivity to temperature variation. The question, however, remains whether we should evaluate the technology or look at the product?

Henry ROBINSON, CLA President explained that a landowner should look at 3 aspects of his land, one could describe as shop floor, shop window and our PR, underlining: *We are the rural engine of our economy, which is important to the government as well. It is important to know that rural economy employs 3 million people. Our members represent more than half of the UK owners and runs the land (...) We need to be proactive, open and robust and get on the front foot (...). We need to recognise where we don't necessarily do it right. We need to get out there what we provide for the community. We need to get these excellent and new best practices out there".*

The event was closed by Ladislav MIKO, Acting Director General, DG Santé who reflected on sustainable development and biodiversity, as well as on the EC's approach to science based policy. He concluded by saying: *"We have many interesting concepts that are developed: the circular economy, green infrastructure,*

*restoration of ecosystem services. We can create incentives but at the end, it is wrong to think that laws will create the right solutions. We want to concentrate on the already existing legislations (...). As a Czech citizen I know that major problem in Czech Republic is that 70% of land is rented and not owned. Only a landowner will take care of responsibilities for the future. This is why I'm happy to contribute to the Anders WALL Award, which shows that these candidates are aware of all challenges and their responsibilities as landowners."*

The day ended with a gala dinner where Andras DEMETER, Advisor to Pia BUCELLA, Director in charge of Natural Capital in EC DG Environment, spoke on the importance of collaboration with the private sector in sustainable rural development.

#### **Countryside Visits**

It is a standing tradition that the day after the General Assembly is reserved for



visits to FCS estates. These represent a unique opportunity for sharing experiences and learning more about the families managing their estates for generations.

The FCS would like once more to convey their words of gratitude to all owners and managers of those marvellous places for their time, shared passion and vision, and especially: Lord and Lady de RAMSEY; Duke of GRAFTON; Sir William and Lady PROBY; the PEMBERTON family; Will and Tom STREETER; Ted DARLING; , Mark TOLLER, Liam O'ROURKE, Earl of LEICESTER and Holkham Estate Team; Mr and Mrs Neil FOSTER; Mr and Mrs Chris ALLHUSEN; Sir Henry and Lady BEDINGFELD; and SHROPSHIRE family.

**The next General Assembly will take place in Wolfsburg, Germany from the 26th to 28th of May 2016.**



João PORTUGAL RAMOS, Johan NORDENFALK



## Anders WALL Award 2015

*In 2015, the Anders WALL Award, which rewards special contributions to Europe's rural environment, was presented to José Maria SOARES FRANCO and João PORTUGAL RAMOS - founders, partners and administrators of the Portuguese Duorum Vinhos S.A. The prize of €15.000 was awarded to them at the 18th General Assembly of the Friends of the Countryside in Newmarket, England.*

For the past 10 years, the European Landowners' Organization (ELO) and the Swedish Anders WALL Foundation have granted this award. This has been initiated 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 winners began their work in January 2007, when José Maria SOARES FRANCO and João PORTUGAL RAMOS joined their professional activities as oenologists in a unique and international orientated project, called the Duorum project. They started to produce a different Douro DOP wine profile, gastronomical, balanced, in concordance with an emerging market profile, in the heart of the Douro Wine Region, Portugal.

The main vision of the Duorum project is to produce high quality wine on the basis of sustainable rural development. The Castelo Melhor Estate, that gives space for the project, does not just belong to the Natura 2000 Network (both Special Protection Area of Birds and Special Area of Conservation of Habitats) but also lies within the Douro Wine Region, considered UNESCO World Heritage for its cultural landscape, the World Heritage Côa Valley Pre-Historic art sites and the Douro Natural Park. Thus sustainable management practices have always been an important cornerstone of the project.

A diploma was also awarded on this occasion to the Earl of LEICESTER, owner of the Holkham Estate for their Holkham National Nature Reserve Regeneration Project.

**For more information please contact Julianna NAGY at [julianna.nagy@elo.org](mailto:julianna.nagy@elo.org)**

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## The art of managing an estate.

*There were many interesting speeches at the FCS General Assembly; however the Young Friends would like to highlight one speech which created a lasting impression. David HORTON-FAWKES, Estate Director of Holkham made a fascinating speech about the art of managing an estate.*

Marie-Christine SCHÖNBORN, Caroline RATCLIFF

Mr. HORTON-FAWKES impressed the YFCS with his background in hotel management and how he transferred his knowledge and skills into the art of managing an estate. He set out the ambitious aim for Holkham to appear in the Financial Times in thirty years' time! For this to happen, he outlined the importance of having a vision, which motivates employees and gives the manager and the estate employees a common sense of purpose and ambition.

In order to make the vision a reality, Mr. HORTON-FAWKES addressed several key points. Firstly, he mentioned strategy: where the estate's reputation by the general public is crucial and should be nurtured all the time. This closely leads to his second key point: to stop losing money. This may mean that you may have to 'kill off your favourite business' as the aim is to make the estate as profitable as possible. According to David this means that the estate manager should focus only on those activities which he or she can do well or can scale up. Also it was wise to test run a new business before fully investing and committing to it, in order to gauge if it is viable for the estate.

Thirdly, he argued that inspiration should be actively sought and can often be found outside the estate. For example, he told how he and the employees at Holkham travelled

to London to look at different cafés and afterwards to take back what they had seen and learnt to the new café at Holkham.

Finally, the speaker told the audience how important those working on the estate are. They represent the estate and need to believe in its vision for the future as well as its strategy to get there. People should be personally praised if they have done well and credit should be given where it is due. But above all, he argued that it is the family which has to be at the centre of the estate and it is of crucial importance that they take a lead in its presence and future whilst benefiting from its experience of the past.

The Young Friends would also like to particularly thank Tom and Will STREETER and Ted DARLING for hosting YFCS visits as well as explaining to them to their contrasting farm businesses.

Will and Tom STREETER introduced us to their commercial agricultural business where they work in partnership with the neighbours to gain economies of scale with acreage, machinery and labour as well as seeking out other diversifications such as trial plots for new crops or planting crops in the logo of an American manufacturer so that incoming air passengers to see it as they fly into Stansted Airport. It's the new way to advertise! We would also like to par-

ticularly thank Tom and Will STREETER for hosting us for such a generous lunch with local produce and beer.

Ted DARLING introduced the Young Friends to a very different concept of viable farming, where the emphasis is the environment. YFCS members were greeted by many different butterflies and insects, all attracted by carefully considered crops, hedges and trees. With 40% of the farm dedicated to the environment, it felt very much like a private garden. Such is his passion for the wildlife, DARLING founded the charity "Red List Revival" in 2013, which collects data of the wildlife on the Red List and provides government and environmental advisors with empirical evidence to make better informed decisions on attracting and maintaining such wildlife.

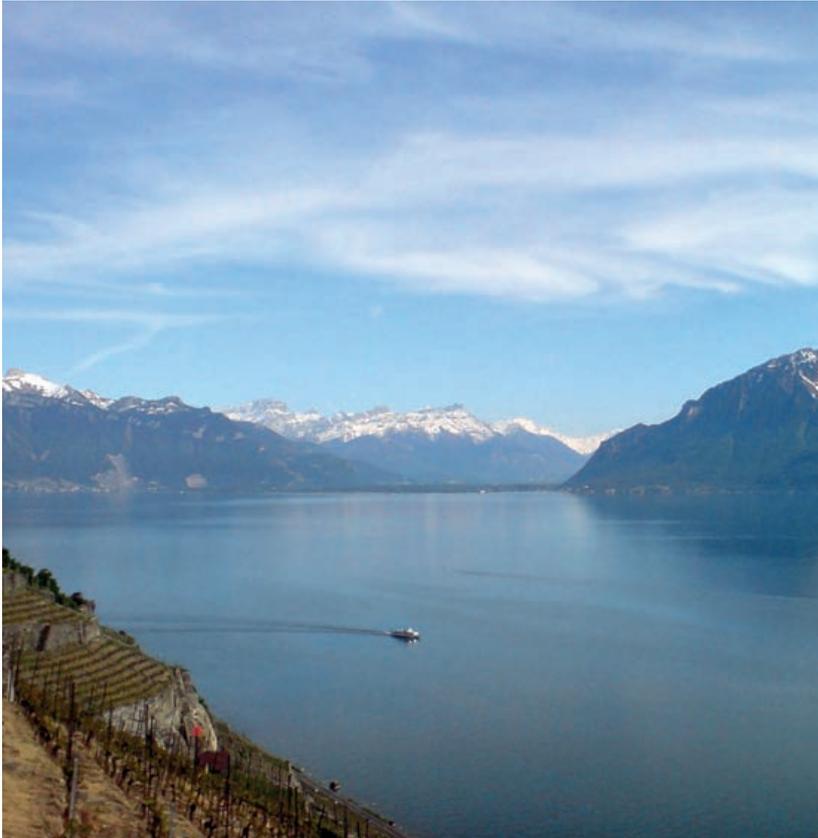
Furthermore, we would like to thank Caroline RATCLIFF for organizing this fantastic and interesting program; - the Young Friends not only enjoyed this weekend at the GA in Newmarket, but also look forward to a close cooperation between the Young Friends and the Friends!

Most importantly, we would like to thank Jehanne de DORLODOT and her team for the outstanding program and organization. It is always a great honour and please to join the Friends of the Countryside at their GA!



## Sharing of entrepreneurial experiences

*On May, 7<sup>th</sup> 2015, the Edmond de ROTHSCHILD Group hosted the members of the "Friends of the Countryside" association, of whom it is the exclusive banking partner, for a seminar on the theme of "the sharing of entrepreneurial experiences". The meeting, which brought together nearly 130 participants from all over Europe, was held at the Pregny Castle, historic property of the ROTHSCHILD family in Switzerland. This venue, located on the verge of Lake Geneva, often hosted leading figures such as Marcel PROUST or the Empress Elisabeth of Austria ("Sisi").*



presented the European forest as an opportunity for sustainable investment. Around 60% of Europe's expanding forest arsenal is private. The forest plays an environmental, social as well as economic role. Managed as a company, it forms a sustainable holding able to generate an attractive return on investment. The promotion of forests increases continuously, which will not fail to arouse the interest of institutional investors.

As for the Edmond de ROTHSCHILD Wealth Solutions team, it has tackled the issues of the transmission and protection of family heritage, notably from the fiscal perspective. The Family Advisory team has thereafter brought up the importance of structured family governance and of the future heirs' education in order to facilitate transmission.

After lunch, during which several wines of the Group were tasted, the hosts could discover its wine-making activities. The ROTHSCHILD family is the reference shareholder of the Château Lafite since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1973, the Baron Edmond de ROTHSCHILD acquired the Château Clarke near Bordeaux. Since that time, the Group's wine-making production has expanded not only in the Bordeaux region, but also towards the Champagne, Spain, South Africa, Argentina and new-Zealand. These international developments have been done in association with other soil and vine passionate families.

The seminar's last presentation addressed private equity. At Edmond de ROTHSCHILD, this follows a long-term approach and focuses on novel themes such as agroforestry or the restoration of polluted industrial sites. Pioneer, entrepreneurial, looking to the future and socially responsible, the private equity symbolises the values of the Group Edmond de ROTHSCHILD: Concordia, Integritas, Industria.

**T**he Baroness Benjamin de ROTHSCHILD, designated President of the Group's Executive Committee at the beginning of 2015, introduced the seminar. She underlined the numerous common traits existing between the Edmond de ROTHSCHILD Group and the Friends of the Countryside.

*"The ROTHSCHILD family is strongly anchored in history. Its heritage has been built upon several generations. Just as soil, heritage is living and sensitive to its*

*environment. To cultivate it, one must be able to innovate, while staying cautious. Our Group's vocation goes beyond the mere financial profit. We are aware of our social responsibility. This is why we support investment in infrastructures, biotechnologies or SMEs".* The Edmond de ROTHSCHILD Group is a high-profile financial actor. It also develops numerous non-banking activities, notably viticulture and agriculture. *"These activities anchor us into reality. We know nothing is ever granted. We must adapt and reinvent ourselves constantly",* Ariane de ROTHSCHILD concluded.

Several financial presentations followed this opening.

Head of the COUDERT Cabinet and silviculture specialist Sylvestre COUDERT



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## Attribution of public property status to private pathways

*Lately, we have seen an increasing number of Spanish local administrations consider that every pathway located in their municipality is per se of public nature and use, even if these cross private land.*

Alvaro TORRECILLA, Lawyer

This practice has increased after the last great revision of the Spanish Land Register in 2001, fostered by two prime factors:

- 1) The Land Register being mainly a fiscal register (very often uncoordinated to the Property Register) of property tax management, to which local authorities have better access;
- 2) It is based on an “undetermined plurality of recipient subjects”; a hypothesis the Spanish legislation considers as an exception to the general rule of personal notification of its agreements, which can thus be notified directly by Official Journal, a last option offering without a doubt less guarantee to the landowner.

In compliance with the 1911 Law on Vicinal Pathways, tracks form a road infrastructure which has to satisfy the social and economic necessities of the territory through connecting the places or enclaves that are of public interest. It is this notification, attached to public ownership, which allows or disallows the conference of public pathway status to the tracks.

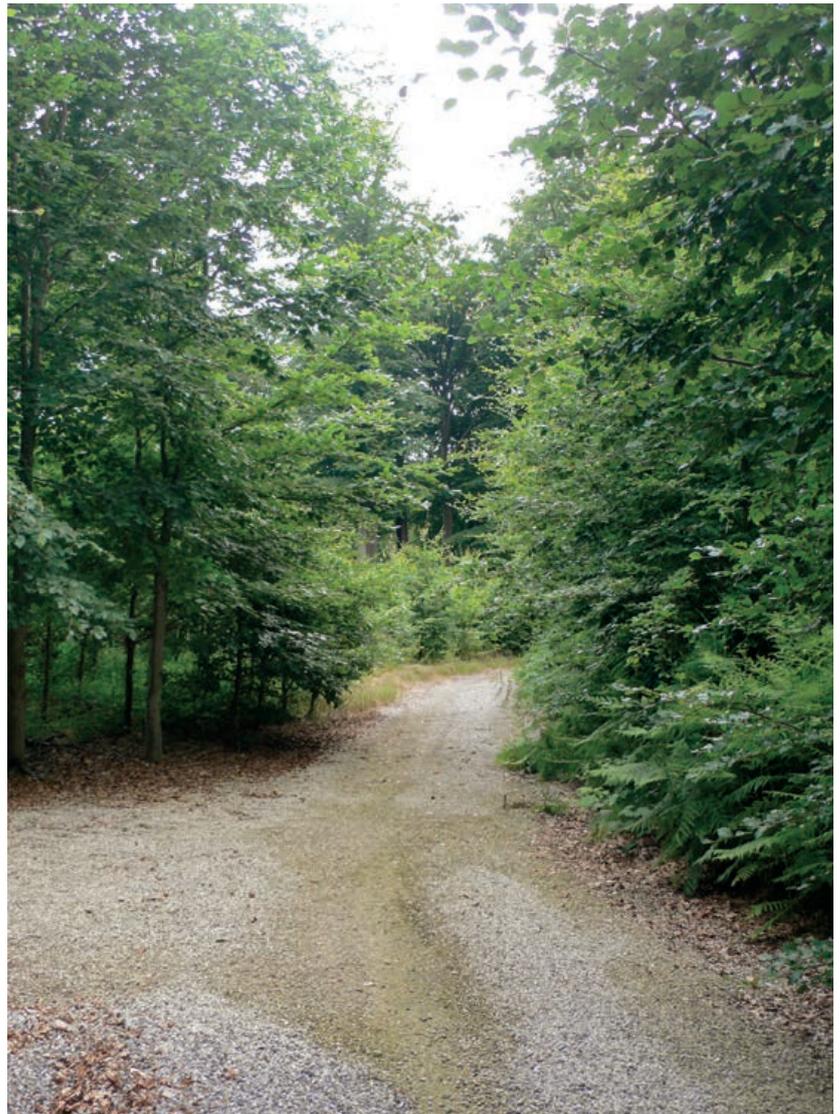
In case of conflict, determining if a pathway is public or private property is the competence of the Spanish civil jurisdiction. However, it has to be highlighted that in some cases, it is the Administration itself which puts the owner in a difficult position, establishing files of legality reinstatement, of recovery, or a “inaudita parte” land register rectification as we mentioned earlier, and for this reason, the controversy could lie inside the purely administrative sphere and its supervision and revision by a contentious-administrative jurisdiction.

Regardless of the competent jurisdiction, the question is first and foremost of probatory character.

In some cases, the evidence can be of geographical and/or historical nature, because most of the public pathways correspond to tracks that have indeed a historical origin; but to determine if a pathway belongs to the Administration or, on the contrary, is a private property, you need in any case sufficient evidence by an expert having suitable access to the file, and

whose evaluation will be done by a lawyer with knowledge in town planning.

In legal terms, the public use of a pathway is equivalent to the continuous ownership of the property. The legal doctrine judges the public use of a track, a reality determined by the immemorial use of the track by the neighbours, its allocation to a pub-





Problems faced by the landowner:  
Vandalism produced by a misinterpretation of the ownership of the rural roads

lic service, and its registration on a stocklist. The Spanish case law cancelled the claim of an Administration which didn't register the track on the stocklist but assured (without proof) it was of "public use" (Court ruling of the Valence HCJ of 28.01.2000 (JUR 2001, 56181)).

Spanish legislation assigns to the Civil Service a series of tremendous powers (presumption of validity and of veracity of its acts; autonomous implementation without necessity of referring to a judge, etc.). This is however insufficient for a town council to claim the ownership of a pathway, which cannot merely be prov-

en by a registration on the Land Register when faced with the private property titles of the estate, and this because the pathway has to be bought legally by the Administration, with supporting evidence.

The evidence of public property for a pathway is composed of two parts:

1. The ownership (or public use) and;
2. The immemorial characteristic of this property.

However, we should not forget that the presumption of ownership is also based upon the entered registration, and that the Property Register rests on a presumption of exactitude; consequently, to deny the ownership, the registration has to be contested, and not merely its use. If the registration isn't contested, the presumption remains in force.

The registration in the Property Register is thus a crucial proof, because according to article 38.2 of the Mortgage Law: "No contradictory action shall be taken towards the field of property or the real rights enlisted without having taken on, formerly or simultaneously, an application to invalidate and cancel the registration". For this reason, this principle is worth apart from a judgement, unless proven otherwise, and the owner must be considered anywhere, in any moment, and by anyone as the real owner. The presumption of the aforementioned principle lasts as long as the writing is in force, that is to say it will only disappear following a new

registration, in virtue of legal negotiation or by adjudication.

For this reason, the registration of the pathways on the Land Register in favour of the town councils cannot oppose itself to the Property Register, because the land register is not considered as a register accrediting property; it could nevertheless be a proof if the owner doesn't oppose it or hasn't registered his/her property to the Property Register.

In case the immemorial use or ownership of a pathway cannot be proven in front of the property titles, only the Administration will be allowed to contest the registration on the Register, provided it furnishes sufficient evidence to destroy the presumption.

It is in this way that the Spanish case law has been pronounced, as the decision of the Cantabrie High Court of November, 4<sup>th</sup> 2000 (JUR 2001\2876) shows: the HC required the Administration to provide sufficient documented evidence as regards to the public characteristic of the claimed pathway, a presumption which became null and void in front of the property titles of the private landowner. In the same vein, the ruling of the Castile and Leon High Court of Justice 37/2011 of January, 14<sup>th</sup> (JUR 2011\104731) required to prove the public use of the pathway as well as its ownership by the Administration by providing evidence of the public title through deeds such as its maintenance by the public authorities.

Based upon these thoughts, the owner who notices cadastral mistakes on his/her property must react as quickly as possible in order to avoid the Public Administration to secure tacitly and sometimes fraudulently a right on a pathway which has never been its own, by means of indirect methods such as cadastral rectification; on the pretext of defending the general interests whereas this merely aims at legitimizing the appropriation of land that has always been of private ownership.

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## Deer population management through Indicators of Ecological Change: the experience of the Bois Landry Estate

*Noticing the failure of deer populations counting methods, a group of French specialists driven by the ONCFS decided to test a new monitoring method, based on the following of indicators concerning the relationship between the deer populations and its habitat (ONC, 1996). Instead of evaluating the number of animals there are in a sector, it is indeed more useful, in order to manage a population, to estimate whether or not it is stable, if the animals are in good physical conditions, and if the pressure they apply to their habitat is compatible with its regeneration. Thus, several "Indicators of Ecological Change" (IEC) have been approved for the roe deer: the mileage index of abundance, indexes of physical condition and an index of flora consumption (Morellet, 2008).*

C. LAUNAY (1), E. BIDEAU (2), B. MONTHUIR (1), M.-L. MAUBLANC (2), J.-F. GERARD (2)

We used this method as an aid for the management of a highly densified roe deer population which was threatening the objectives of the forestry production. In 1999, the hunting pressure was highly increased, and the effects of such pressure on the deer populations and their habitat was measured using a set of IECs.

### THE BOIS LANDRY ESTATE

Located in France, in the Eure et Loire department (28), the Bois Landry Estate covers 1.210 hectares, 1.160 of which are

wooded. It produces lumber, maintains hunting of roe deer, and serves as a tourist attraction. Besides some rare resinous tree plantations, the forest is a coppice with standard conversion into timber. The dominant tree species are the sessile oak, the English oak, the ash tree, the cherry and the chestnut tree. Apart from the roe deer, the red deer and the wild boar are rather rare in the massif.

### THE INDICATORS USED

Six IEC were progressively implemented

from the 1999-2000 hunting season on. The first was the number of corpora lutea in the ovaries of the females over one year of age (fertility index). Although not approved as an IEC, this parameter partly reflects the physical condition of the roe deer, and is easy to obtain during the evisceration of the animals killed during the hunt. The second indicator, implemented from the 2001-02 season on, was the body mass of the juveniles, weighed after evisceration. The third one, set up in 2006, is the mileage index of abundance (numbers observed per kilometre crossed). Six tracks of 2.2 to 5.7 kilometre

tres were spread on the massif. The following years, six to eleven observers, walking in the morning and in the evening, each completed a series of tracks in March, after the hunting season.

The fourth indicator is the flora consumption index, called the browsing index (proportion of 1m<sup>2</sup> quadrats where the woody flora shows browsing marks at the end of the winter). It was applied in March 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012, on 195 1m<sup>2</sup> quadrats spread in the Massif (*red. mountain area*). The census also allowed for an estimation of the proportion of these quadrats presenting woody plants (browsed or not) accessible to the deer, particularly the young oak plans, in order to evaluate the forest regeneration potential. Finally, two indicators of physical condition were measured on the hunted juveniles and implemented from the 2005-06 and 2008-09 seasons on: the length of their mandible and of their hind legs.

#### EVOLUTIONS OF THE SAMPLES AND IECs

The samples were increased from 2001-02 (104 individuals) to 2006-07 (173 individuals), without a visible improvement in the physical condition indicators. On the contrary, the numbers of *corporea lutea* per female and the juveniles' weight tended to decrease. Between March 2006 and March 2007, the mileage index of abundance confirmed the reduction of the numbers.

The samples were maintained at a high level in 2007-08 and 2008-09 (167, then 198 animals). The dynamics of the physical condition indicators reversed, with a strong increase in 2007-08. The mileage index achieved its lowest level in March 2009.

From the season 2009-10 onwards, the annual samples were brought back in the region of one hundred individuals (99 to 133). The physical condition indicators stayed high, the mileage index showing some fluctuations, with a slight tendency to increase.

The browsing index, which diminished between March 2007 and March 2008, kept slightly decreasing until March 2012. The proportion of quadrats showing oak seedlings (unaltered between March 2007 and March 2008) sharply increased in March 2010, remaining high in March 2012.

This permanent dialogue between sampling levels by hunting and answers of the IECs is illustrated by the "dashboard", a synthetic presentation constituting a genuine tool for decision making.

#### Hunting plan indicators per triad (data available in French)

saisons	2003-2006	2006-2009	2009-2012	2012-2015
Attribution	470	540	450	350
Réalisation	461	536	342	334
Prélèvement au 100 ha boisé	13	15	9,5	9,3
Taux de réalisation	98%	99%	76%	95%
Indices de condition	↘	↗	→	→
Indice d'abondance	↗	↘	→	→
Impact sur la flore	↗	↘	→	↗

#### A VERY CONCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

On the Bois Landry Estate, the increase of the hunting pressure, wisely helped by the use of IECs as a decision making tool,

Last April, The Bois Landry Estate officially received the Wildlife Estates Label, which recognizes the quality of wildlife management on European private lands.

The Bois Landry Estate is the 6th territory in France to receive this label, and the ELO has followed their research activities closely.

This is why we decided to publish the research project to which the Bois Landry Estate participated and contributed, in line with our philosophy of action.

**Delphine DUPEUX , ELO**

enabled the land managers to decrease the roe deer headcount to a level allowing 1- to improve the physical condition of the animals and 2- to enhance the regeneration potential of the forest, this reflected the information given by the indicators that were used. This experience shows how using a body of IECs can help the managers to adjust their samples in order to achieve all of their management goals.

However, it is important to keep in mind that the variations of the IECs provide in-



formation on the dynamics of a complex system, in which the samples by hunting, although playing a crucial role, are not the only variation factors (weather conditions, silviculture, pathologies...). Moreover, it is the evolution of the IECs over time that provides information on the population-habitat relationship, and not the annual values; a three-year scale seems to be a reasonable timeframe to grasp these evolutions.

These imperatives appear to restrain the use of IECs to territories of sufficient size, where the staff resources, the control of the management decisions and the guarantee of a long-term follow-up are assured.

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# How jobs and income generated through rural recreational and cultural activities can help support the environment



Francesco NATTA, Dr Francesco MANTINO, Anna BARNETT,

## RISE Conference on Europe's Multi-Purpose Countryside

*On the 22<sup>nd</sup> June, the RISE Foundation held a Conference on Europe's Multi-Purpose Countryside in the EU Pavilion on at the EXPO Milan.*

**Annabelle WILLIAMS, RISE Foundation**

The event was the first of two events prepared on request of the European Commission's EXPO Scientific Steering Committee, whose aim is to generate discussion on key topics around the EXPO's theme: 'Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life'.

The thinking behind the conference was to discuss the different ways by which the diversification of rural activities can help land managers to invest and support the environment. One of the greatest challenges of our time is to incentivise the more careful management of our biodiversity and the ecosystems it provides, especially in areas where there is limited capacity for profitable farming. Therefore RISE sought through the conference to exemplify the environmental care role of rural land managers in both the intensive food producing areas as well as the more marginal remote regions and in doing so, highlight examples which demonstrate how jobs and incomes can be generated through environmental care programmes, rural tourism and recreation.

The day was one of lively and animated debate amongst the speakers and the audience and the interaction between all of those attending, who were clearly passionate about the issues, added real depth to the subject. The conference was opened by Dr Janez POTOČNIK, former European Commissioner for the Environment, and since April this year, the new RISE Chairman. Dame Helen GHOSH, CEO

of the National Trust, one of the world's largest membership organisations, gave a holistic overview of how the Trust combines productive, sustainable farming and access for the public. She argued that if we are to develop a workable support for rural areas, we need to educate and communicate about the importance of nature for society – a theme that ran throughout the sessions which all addressed both the policy and practical implementation sides of the issues: rural environmental management, rural recreation and tourism and local regional and traditional foods.

The results of the conference will be fed back to the EU EXPO Scientific Steering

Committee who will integrate the discussions into a recommendations report to support decision makers on future priorities for research and development and innovation in the food and agricultural sector. Ultimately, these recommendations will serve as a major contribution to the EU legacy of Expo 2015 as it guides its future policy actions.

**RISE will organise a second workshop at the EU Pavilion on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, this time looking into the Sustainable Intensification of Agriculture and Nutrient Recycling and Reuse.**



Dr Janez POTOČNIK, Dame Helen GHOSH

## Diary dates

### 10 - 11 September, EXPO, Milan

Forum for the Future of Agriculture regional event

<http://www.forumforagriculture.com/>

### 14 - 15 September, Brussels

Information day for project proposals under the H2020 challenge 'Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy'

<http://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/events>

### 14 - 16 September, Trujillo (Spain)

Wildlife Estates plenary session

[www.wildlife-estates.eu](http://www.wildlife-estates.eu)

### 23rd September, EU Pavilion, EXPO Milan

Sustainable Intensification and Nutrient Recovery and Reuse in Agriculture

[www.risefoundation.eu](http://www.risefoundation.eu)

### 29 September - 1 October, Madrid

Natura 2000 Farmland Management and Biodiversity Conference

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/events/events-upcoming/193\\_natura2000\\_farmland\\_management\\_biodiversity\\_conference\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/events/events-upcoming/193_natura2000_farmland_management_biodiversity_conference_en.htm)

### 1st October, Colmenar Viejo, Spain

HERCULES Spanish Local Workshop

<http://www.hercules-landscapes.eu/>

### 2 - 4 October, Brussels

EHHA General Assembly

[www.europeanhistorichouses.eu](http://www.europeanhistorichouses.eu)

## Maintenant ou jamais

(ang. Now or never)

Ed. Fayard

ISBN- 9782213678221



France has been declining for twenty years, it is now in the dropping-out phase. Threatened to be an underdeveloped country. Just as Italy or Spain, it is going to meet the austerity choice. A trial that was imposed neither by the government's policy, nor by Europe or Germany, but by reality. When you borrow 200 billion per year, you endure the law of your creditors. Outrage and rebellion cannot change anything.

A difficult situation, a situation of war, which has no raison d'être. France has all the assets of prosperity in its hands and has only to reduce its spending by 1% per year to get back to the

equilibrium. Just a couple of years of effort suffice to start over again. But French people are at odds with reality, they prefer to keep their ideology. Thus, our society is untying itself in front of the obstacle. The 5th Republic is not quite capable to face the coming ordeal anymore. On the verge of ruin, the rules of the game will have to be changed. As in 1958.

For our country, it is a matter of survival. François de Closets, who, for 30 years, from book to book, never stopped heralding the coming disaster, offers us our last chance to get through. Now or never.

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