

# CountrySide

European Landowners' Organization

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 **Forum for the  
Future of Agriculture™**  
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## ForumforAg 2022 Regional Event in Czech Republic

Constantin KINSKÝ, Ladislav MIKO



# Editorial

Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, *Secretary General*

## Contents

- 3 ForumforAg 2022  
Regional Event in Czech Republic

---

- 7 European Landowners' Organisation (ELO)  
General Assembly in Czech Republic  
European Bee Awards

---

- 8 Implications of the European Green Deal for  
agri-food trade with developing countries

---

- 10 Unlocking Innovation – Start-Ups Voice

---

- 12 Life European Networks for  
private land conservation

---

- 13 Famigro Award 2022

---

- 14 EUWAY Kick-off Meeting  
Microservices project

---

- 15 Herit 3rd Transnational Meeting  
Reflow

---

- 16 Diary dates  
Book

*The implementation of the Green Deal is generating a legislative explosion on a scale rarely seen before. To achieve their goals, its promoters must profoundly modify the regulatory ecosystem: there is no subject or even sector that will not be impacted.*

*ELO has focused on discussing the impact that the European Commission's plans could have on world trade, which is well reflected in the study by Professor Alan MATTHEWS published by ELO. European producers fear that they will be at a particular disadvantage compared to their competitors once they are subject to all the measures aimed at restoring our climate and biodiversity, while the effects of the food crisis are being overlooked. It is legitimate to want to devote so much effort to resolving these crises, but is it not undermining this legitimacy to want to impose so-called mirror production rules on our importers without being sure of their acceptability? In the midst of a food crisis, we are projected into a degrowth project, as the other regions of the world are clearly not willing to follow us at any price. Moreover, it is a dangerous assumption to imagine that the legitimacy of the mirror clauses that the EU aspires to put in place will not be challenged by the WTO.*

*We are at the crossroads of three crises that need to be resolved, but the way the EU intends to do it is leading the rural world to feel disrespected in the face of what it perceives as an avalanche of new constraints.*

*Let us not discourage it, but rather give it the possibility of turning crises into opportunities: of offering actors a more inclusive vision. To do this, let us dare to not be constrained, but rather to take responsibility, respecting not only our citizens but also our economic partners: let us dare to find new solutions and technologies.*

*It is at this price, in partnership and in a playable economic game that the ambitions of the Green Pact will be realised.*



SAN MIGUEL, PORTUGAL



Constantin KINSKÝ, Josef SOUKUP



Janez POTOČNIK

# ForumforAg 2022 Regional Event in Czech Republic

*On Wednesday, May 18, the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague hosted its first edition of the ForumforAg Regional conference. More than 200 participants joined us in the auditorium for a truly international event marking the crossover from the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union to the upcoming Czech Presidency in July. Throughout the day, sessions discussed biodiversity, environmental targets, climate mitigation, food system transformation and forestry.*



This event is organized under the auspices of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union



In collaboration with:



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Delegates were welcomed by Professor Josef SOUKUP, CSc, Dean of the faculty, Faculty of Agrobiological Sciences, Food and Natural Resources, at the university. Introducing the university and its faculties in the areas of agriculture, life sciences, and the economy, he said fields of study that relate to the development of agriculture attract many students.

Joining him, Constantin KINSKÝ, Vice President and Member of the Board of the Private Forests Chamber in the Czech Republic (SVOL) and European delegate, European Landowners' Organization (ELO), welcomed the ForumforAg debates as a way to provide continuity. He introduced the ELO and outlined its definition of sustainability, which relates to three areas: eco-

logical sustainability, economic response to sustainability, and socio-political sustainability.

Janez POTOČNIK, Chair of ForumforAg and Chairman of the RISE Foundation and Co-Chair of the International Resource Panel of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), gave the opening address. Now is not the time to retreat from the EU Green Deal, Mr POTOČNIK argued, but to invest further in soil health, biodiversity and new agtech to achieve food security. With the war in Ukraine and worldwide fear of a global food and energy crisis, action clearly needs to be taken to prevent potential terrible hunger. But we still need to act for the long term. "Solving the current conflict-related crisis should not, and

cannot, compromise our ability to tackle the triple planetary crises of climate emergency, biodiversity loss and pollution," Mr POTOČNIK said. COVID and Ukraine have only accelerated the need to transition our food system to one that is robust and sustainable, restores biodiversity, reduces emissions, sequesters carbon, and provides affordable, nutritious food for us all.

## Biodiversity framework to maintain agriculture production

In the second part of the welcome session, Ladislav MIKO, Deputy Director-General for the Food Chain, Health and Food Safety Department (DG SANTE), European Commission and special advisor to



Martin HLAVACEK (on the screen), Nadezda HAVOVA, Monika NEBESKA, Alzbeta PROCHAZKOVA



Barbara PIA OBERC (on the screen), Petr ADLER, Miroslava BAVOROVA, Jurgen TACK

Czech Minister of Environment, and Lukas VISEK, Member of the Cabinet of Executive Vice-President of the European Commission Frans Timmermans, discussed ways to restore biodiversity above and below ground.

Mr MIKO emphasized that *“we can’t go on with business as usual for one single day”*. Maintaining biodiversity is no longer enough, it is vital to restore it. He highlighted two key elements: the health and fertility of soils, and the structure and functions of agriculturally managed land.

Mr VISEK made the point that *“we can no longer compartmentalize the food chain”*, reminding guests that it is two years since the EU launched far-reaching initiatives to make the food system sustainable and support the Green Deal. *“We need to consider the food chain as a whole, and everybody has a role to play.”*

The pressing question posed during session 1 **‘Can we achieve the environmental targets with the new CAP and the National Strategic Plans?’** brought our panellists plenty of challenges from the audience. Livestock reduction, how best to improve soil, and the need for wide consultation on the national plan were among them.

Pierre BASCOU, Director Sustainability Directorate, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission, said the goal is to support a sustainable transition of the whole food chain, and the climate neutrality of the entire land use sector. And to do so while balancing the economic objectives and helping farmers with their environmental and climate performance.

Martin HLAVACEK MEP, Member of the European Parliament, said *“we could, but very likely we will not”*. To succeed, the

10 million farmers across Europe all need a solution they can implement on the ground. Member states have flexibility, losing the commonality of the CAP – and some of the practices states adopt may not bring results.

Alžběta PROCHÁZKOVÁ, WWF Central & Eastern Europe, said environmental objectives needed to be fine-tuned for a specific area, for a specific region. *“So we have to tailor make the objectives and prepare a scale of the rules for environmental measures so that they can be applied across the whole of the EU.”*

Speaking as another highly experienced farmer, panellist Monika NEBESKÁ, Chairwoman of the Board, Agricultural Cooperative Všestary, agreed it was *“nonsense”* to continue reducing livestock as it was a part of the agricultural cycle, for example, contributing to retaining water in the landscape. On pesticides, she said farmers were bound to stick to limits but there was no real support for how to do that. *“It’s restrictions and restrictions again, only farming that is blamed.”*

**How best to integrate climate mitigation and biodiversity regeneration in food system transformation?** -During the next session an expert panel tackled the complexity of this 3-way challenge and how to implement practical solutions, while still giving choices. Discussion flourished as each gave their – and their organization’s – perspective, from farmer to landowner, private sector to NGO. After introductions by the Moderator, Naděžda HÁVOVÁ, Jurgen TACK, Scientific Director, ELO, opened by describing the relentless march of the changing climate, and the disastrous effect on biodiversity and food. He outlined the two strategies to tackle climate

change – adaptation and mitigation: adaptation is typically the way for individuals and mitigation for larger organizations. Farmers have been adapting for four decades. Recent European policies – to sequester carbon, reduce emissions, improve soils – are a shift towards mitigation.

Barbara PIA OBERČ, Policy and Project Officer, European Regional Office in Brussels, IUCN, agreed that climate change and biodiversity loss are *“two interlinked existential crises and two sides of the same coin”*. She highlighted some statistics to illustrate the pressures: for example, IUCN’s red list assesses over 112,000 species, of which nearly a third are threatened with extinction.

The global nature of climate and biodiversity challenges was stressed by Dr. Miroslava BAVOROVÁ, Associate Professor, Department of Economics and Development, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague. A large share of food insecure people around the globe are smallholder farmers, yet policies in the less developed economies are mainly oriented on achieving food security in Europe.

Petr ADLER, Head of Sales and Country Leader, Czech Republic, Syngenta, described his company’s role **“to bring innovation to the market, share information and be there for the agricultural producers... the ones who share the biggest burden of the changes”**. Also to interconnect individual stakeholders, including strategies to communicate to end consumers.

The final session of the ForumforAg Czech Regional was an opportunity to hear experts **discuss the type of forest the world needs to mitigate climate change**. Opening the session, the Moderator, Constantin KINSKÝ, set the scene by saying that what

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**JOHN DEERE**

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Constantin KINSKY, Alessandro CESCATTI, Tomas VRŠKA, Jiri SVOBODA, Johanna PIRINEN



Alberto ARROYO SCHNELL (on the screen), Sabine von WIREN-LEHR, Emmanuelle MIKOSZ, Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, Constantin KINSKY, Alessandro CESCATTI, Tomas VRŠKA

was common to all parties was that we do not know how far climate change will go. We do know the climate is warming, more so on the ground, and that trees are dying, but the exact scenario we face is not clear.

The first panellist, Alessandro CESCATTI, Senior scientist, Directorate for Sustainable Resources, Joint Research Centre, European Commission, alluded to the trees in *The Lord of the Rings* and asked: what would trees tell us if they could talk, and where would they go if they could walk? The signals trees are sending out say they are facing unprecedented challenges. Warming is reducing the availability of water and drying out the trees, reducing resilience and putting the carbon capture potential of the tree at risk. Too many of the same species exacerbate the problem

because they all need the same resources at the same time. And if trees could walk, they would move north to avoid higher temperatures. Many trees are already at the edge of the limits of the climate change they can withstand.

The French perspective was given by Erwin ULRICH, Head of the mission to adapt forests to climate change, Forestry and Natural Hazards Directorate, ONF, Office National des Forêts, France, who spoke about his work piloting the adaptation of forests on a national level. *"We want to continue to guarantee multifunctional forests everywhere, because they correspond to our forestry culture and to society's wishes,"* he said.

Jiří SVOBODA, President of the Association of Municipal, Private and Church Forest Owners in the Czech Republic (SVOL) said that the Czech Republic environmental agency was *"one of the strictest in the world"* and foresters are sometimes left with a choice of only four to five species. He said he would like to see discussions on forestry legislation re-opened.

Tomáš VRŠKA, Director, University Forest Enterprise Křtiny, Mendel University in Brno, commented that *"when you work with the concept of natural restoration and nature-based restoration, it needs to be really location specific. You simply can't do a desk study and write down a law that stipulates this or that."*

The commercial view on the future of forests and climate change came from Johanna PIRINEN, Senior Vice President, Sustainability, Stora Enso Wood Products Division. Ms Pirinen said that the forest-based renewable products that Stora Enso

brings to the market have a three-fold climate benefit - 1) the forest as it grows is sequestering carbon from the atmosphere; 2) the product stores the carbon for its long lifetime or when recycled; 3) there is the "substitution effect" of replacing oil-based plastics.

### Farmers and foresters together

The session opened to a wide range of questions from the audience before wrapping up with short messages from additional guests: Emmanuelle MIKOSZ, Forum for the Future of Agriculture Programme Director; Sabine von WIREN-LEHR, Director of EU Affairs, Tetra Pak; and Alberto ARROYO SCHNELL, Head of Policy and Programme, IUCN European Regional Office.

Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, Secretary General, European Landowners' Organization, thanked the event's Czech hosts and the university, partners, panellists, moderators, and the event producers. He said the Forum had launched 15 years ago to foster open debate about agriculture and now it needed to do the same for forests - bringing together farmers and foresters because *"it's crucial we do this together"*.

For more information and to watch the recording of the full discussion: [www.forumforagriculture.com](http://www.forumforagriculture.com)



## European Landowners' Organisation (ELO) General Assembly in Czech Republic

Twice a year, the ELO General Assembly (GA) takes place in the country that is about to take up the rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU. The GA was held in a hybrid form, giving the possibility to join the meeting in person or "online", respecting COVID rules and social distancing in place. More than 50 people took part from 19 European countries and the GA also served as a perfect opportunity to discuss and exchange thoughts and experiences while walking around Prague's Old Town.

This was the occasion to listen to and debate the priorities of the Czech Presidency with Jiri SIR, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Eliška TRNKOVÁ, Unit of Forest Management Policies, Ministry of Agriculture. It was also the opportunity to hand over the ELO's main messages for agricultural and environmental priorities.

ELO delegates underlined that the EU must address global food security issues and food system resilience. Food security is now, understandably, at the forefront of political debate. The triple-C effect of Conflicts, Climate change and Covid-related economic impacts weighed on global food security, leading to a point when around 40 million people became food insecure in 2021. A situation made worse by the unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine.

All delegates agreed the need to unlock the potential of land-based sectors for an EU Green Deal; striving for competitive sustainable food systems and how to integrate the 2030 Farm to Fork targets. The CAP remains the best tool for land managers across the EU and is also the key for future-proofing European rural areas. The role of carbon farming was debated as was the way to boost the climate mitigation potential of land-based sectors. Special attention was also given to the importance of a vibrant, diverse, and multifunctional forest sector as well as to Biodiversity Strategy 2030 - enhancing biodiversity through sustainable land management.

**The next General Assembly will take place in Stockholm (Sweden) from 30 November to 1 December.**

The ELO would like to thank you all its members in Czech Republic for their support in putting this event together:



### Are you part of an innovative project protecting bees or other pollinators?

The **European Bee Award** has launched the call for applications for 2022! The European Landowners' Organization (ELO) and the European Agricultural Machinery Industry Association (CEMA) invite you to submit your project by **Friday 9th of September 2022**.

✉ [anne-sophie.mulier@elo.org](mailto:anne-sophie.mulier@elo.org)

🌐 <https://www.europeanlandowners.org/awards/bee-award>

### Who can apply?

**The European Bee Award is open to everyone\*.**

We reward farmers, landowners, research institutes, academia, and private and public organisations who develop **outstanding and innovative projects aiming to protect bees or other pollinators** and helping to preserve biodiversity.

\*Check the terms and conditions in the application form

### 3 prizes will be awarded:

**Land Management practices**

(€ 4,000 prize)

**Innovative technological solutions**

(€ 4,000 prize)



**Special Mention of the Jury**  
(diploma of recognition)

# Implications of the European Green Deal for agri-food trade with developing countries

*The ELO has recently published a report paper on the external dimensions of the European Green Deal, with a special focus on its implications on agri-food trade with developing countries. The study was conducted by prof. Alan MATTHEWS from Trinity College, Dublin.*

## Extract of the Executive Summary

The European Green Deal has as one of its objectives to build a more sustainable and healthier food system. Implementing the necessary measures to achieve this objective will have a significant impact on the competitiveness of EU producers as well as international trade in food. The EU recognised that this effort includes an important external dimension to also support the global transition to sustainable agri-food systems. The Commission has proposed a broad set of legislative and other initiatives to take greater account of sustainability issues in trade policy and to bring about greater coherence between agriculture, trade and Green Deal policies. The purpose of this report is to examine how measures taken to implement this objective in the agri-food sector might im-





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pact on developing countries and especially low-income developing countries. Our main objective is to suggest ways to avoid any negative impacts for these countries that might undermine or limit their ability to progress towards the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

One of the priorities for the French Presidency of the EU Council of Ministers in the first half of 2022, set out in its Presidency Programme as part of its work to promote

sovereignty and food self-sufficiency in the agricultural sector, was “to encourage Council discussions on reciprocal environmental and health standards for European products and products imported from third countries” (French Government, 2022). The aim is to subject “imported products to certain production requirements applied in the European Union where necessary, to strengthen the protection of health or the environment on the largest possible scale, in keeping with World Trade Organisation



rules (“mirror clauses”).” This work would prioritise the introduction of sectoral mirror clauses. The Presidency also proposed to launch work on the regulation on deforestation-free imports, which would be a significant step towards greater account being taken of production standards for imported products.

These French Presidency priorities built on similar statements in the EU Trade Policy Review published in February 2021 and statements agreed as part of legislative package for the future Common Agricultural Policy in July 2021.

The objectives of these policies are to safeguard EU production capacity by ensuring EU producers compete with imports on a level playing field, to avoid that EU consumers off-shore the negative environmental consequences of their consumption through existing or increased imports, and to raise global sustainability standards by leveraging access to the EU market to give a stimulus to exporting countries to raise their standards.

Several trade policy measures can be used to pursue these objectives, including multilateral, bilateral and unilateral policies. Mirror clauses are an example of a unilateral measure and are the principal focus of this report. The use of mirror clauses has been discussed to date mainly at a conceptual level. Only for the use of antibiotics in animal production has a specific mirror clause been adopted but to date it has not been enforced. Because of this, the discussion in this report is also on a conceptual level. To conduct a more specific impact assessment would require a more detailed prescription of how a particular mirror clause would be specified and how it would be enforced.

Each of the potential trade policy measures to pursue sustainability objectives will differ in their effectiveness in achieving those objectives but also in the potential risk of negative consequences. Thus, the choice of the most appropriate trade policy instrument in a specific context should be based on a comparison of the benefit/risk ratios of different measures. For this purpose, at least six considerations are relevant with respect to the future use of mirror clauses. (...)

The conclusion of this discussion is that mirror clauses may be an appropriate instrument in certain circumstances, but their relevance should be decided on a case-by-case basis taking these six principles into account. A general prohibition on imports that may fail to meet EU standards in one or another dimension is neither

feasible nor desirable. The EU should carefully assess the benefits and risks of mirror clauses on an individual basis based on the six principles and following a full impact assessment. (...)

To ensure policy coherence for development, changes to import standards whether introduced as a mirror clause or not should meet four criteria:

- A sufficient transition period to allow alternatives to be developed, applying the principle of special and differential treatment where health and safety of EU consumers is not the issue.
- The commitment of significant EU resources to help farmers in vulnerable de-

veloping countries to adapt their production practices where justified.

- Just transition principles in Europe emphasise that those affected by change should be consulted and have a say in managing that change. This principle should also apply to the external dimension of the Green Deal.

- EU decision-making must include mechanisms where the interests and needs of these countries are explicitly considered. This should include a full impact assessment to which these countries should have the opportunity to contribute.

**The study can be consulted at the ELO website.**

**The European Landowners’ Organization (ELO) welcomes the publication of European Commission’s report on June 3<sup>rd</sup> on the “Application of EU health and environmental standards to imported agricultural and agrifood products”. It was a much-awaited analysis and we are delighted to see balanced and realistic conclusions.**

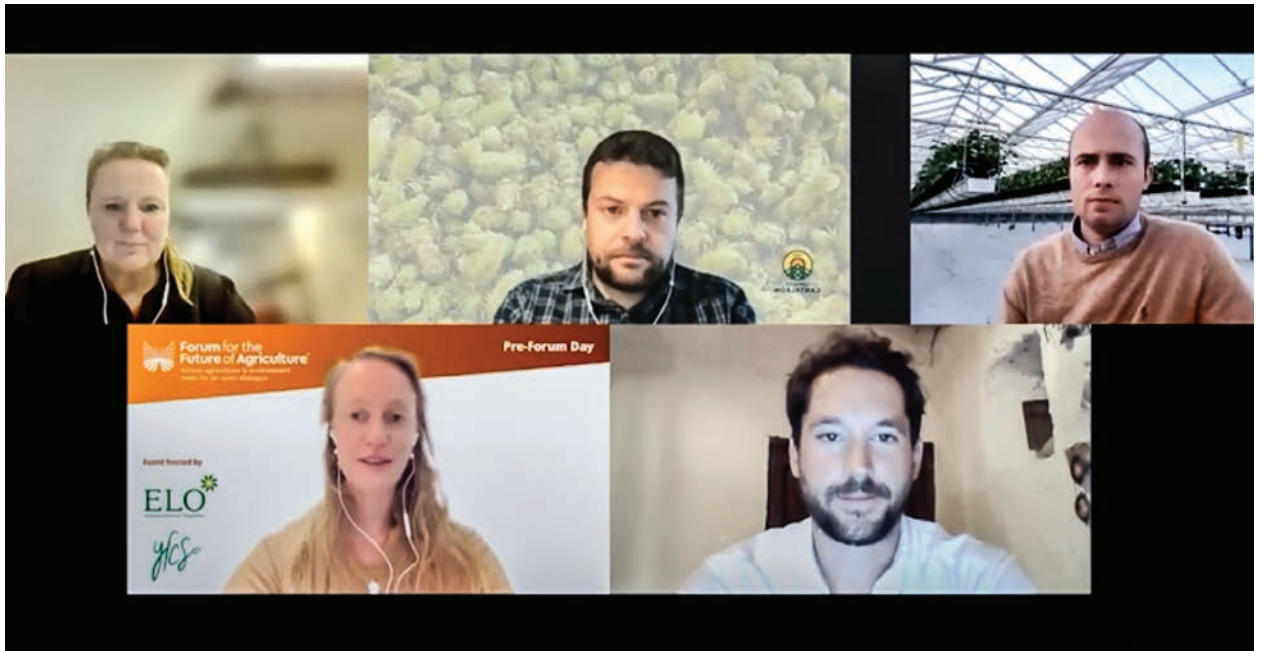
#### **THE ELO BELIEVES THAT:**

Overall, the EU green Deal is an opportunity to push for development of sustainable agriculture both in Europe and around the world. The ELO welcomes the efforts of the Commission to highlight environmental considerations when discussing trade agreements and bilateral cooperation. However, applying the more ambitious EU health and environmental standards to imported agricultural and agri-food products is more complex and therefore needs to take into account the technical and economical feasibility of control mechanisms.

It remains worthwhile minimizing the discrepancies of environmental ambition among trade partners by requiring similar standards for comparable products. These efforts raise global ambition and help prevent market leakages. There are a few ways to ensure sustainability is taken into account at trade level: mandatory sustainability standards (that also recognize local issues and might require different approaches), multilateral environmental agreements, sustainability clauses in trade agreements, and labelling requirements. Also, market instruments like the CBAM seem to be appropriate for offsetting some of the negative overall impacts.

The ELO agrees that requirements on the Process and Production Methods (PPM) of imported products must undergo a case-by-case assessment of their WTO compatibility. When it is compatible and feasible, the efforts must be balanced through the different spectrum of the food chain. The Farm to Fork Strategy is rather incomplete, as it does not consider the implications on trade flows i.e., on the EU’s position as a major trade block for agri-food products. The high diversity of environmental conditions and farming practices across the world make it difficult to set up the same measures at an international level. It should also be taken into consideration that new standards should be sustainable in the context of growing population and therefore demand.

Its success will rely on close cooperation with third countries and support for trade partners by enabling access to European technology. While it is necessary for the EU to export knowledge, we should also put ourselves in the position to learn.



From left to right and top to bottom: Karin BEUKEL, Santiago SANTOS VALLE, Sven NEUFKENS, Marie-Christine SCHÖNBORN and Alfonso BALDUINO CHICO DE GUZMAN.

# Unlocking Innovation Start-Ups Voice



*At the pre-Forum's 2022 Annual Conference on March 14, a selection of four start-ups displayed their approach of the challenge of food waste to our online audience. The moderator of the day, Marie-Christine SCHÖNBORN (Young Friends of the Countryside) moderated the discussion accompanied by Santiago SANTOS VALLE (Lúpulo Cantaléon), Sven NEUFKENS (fruitboxatwork), Karin BEUKEL (Agrain), and Alfonso CHCIO DE GUZMAN (La Junquera Regenerative Farm and Entrepreneurship HUB).*

Elodie CHAMPSEIX, ELO

10

It is estimated that a third of the food produced in the world ends up as “waste” (1.3bn tons according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization<sup>1</sup>). If food waste were a country, it would be the third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world, behind China and the USA. This issue not only exacerbates the climate crisis by contributing to food and water shortages, but also enhances pressure on land use, biodiversity loss and greenhouse gas emission. By delivering solutions to make supply and demand meet and challenging the “top-down” approach of economic value repartition, these start-ups not only contribute to limit the environmental impact, but provide additional income to farmers due to re-evaluation of our food supply chain efficiency.

The discussion focused on the presentation of each business model of the start-ups, followed by a question addressed to all regarding their actions in the direction of food waste and optimization of the distribution, their needs/expectations toward agribusiness policies to support their actions and to allow a just and sustainable adaptation of the food and agriculture supply chain.

All start-ups present agreed and concluded that the actions with the most leverage toward food waste mitigation would be **financial support toward circularity and waste management** alongside **more communication/education** on the topic. Among the practical solutions mentioned toward these objectives, here are examples provided by our panellists.

### In farming:

- Enhance circularity on the farm by using organic waste or sub product internally as animal feed or energy uses.

### In the market:

- Address issues of industrial food waste directly from internal processes.
- Build stronger connections between those who can solve food waste issues with those who have the ideas on how to proceed, bring exchange of knowledge and close collaboration.
- Build awareness to consumers, such as via a recognition of circular products and processes through a label. Education in schools could play a role in shaping the farming image to the young and making the sector more attractive to them. Bringing in more ideas and innovation.

### Policies:

- Provide more information at disposition to political discussion and decision-making actors regarding circular food chains.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/196402/icode/>

- Introduce a regulation against food waste, by linking it to CO2 emission to evaluate the cost. One idea would be to treat food waste as a resource itself, with traceability.
- Circular models start-ups in agriculture should have access to different types of loans than other start-ups, thanks to their holistic improvement approach. Currently, agriculture represents such a long-term investment that should be compensated with longer loans over time to cover the risks.
- Subsidies to farmers could also be a strong incentive to go into the right direction.

The Spanish initiative **La Junquera Regenerative Farm and Entrepreneurship HUB** was the first to be introduced, presenting the journey from monocultures to organic and regenerative farming practices in the arch weather region. Thanks to their effort, they managed to diversify their culture while focussing on farm circularity using animal and vegetal composts and increasing their local partnerships.

The second start-up **fruitboxatwork** is an environmentally friendly production of strawberries implemented in Belgium since 2017, using not less than 5000 square meters of land for 50 thousand kilos of strawberries every year. It proudly uses only rainwater and solar energy, no pesticides, no plastic in their packaging and is engaged in a direct link with consumers through vending machines around nearby villages within a 15km reach from the farm. They are also working on limiting organic waste on their farm by feeding their chicken with the strawberries left-overs.

**Agrain** was next, an innovative upcycler of brewer's spent grain from beer and whisky production to food. They aim to address four main challenges: food waste, world hunger, obesity and over-production, by reusing ingredients that would not have been directed to human consumption. In Denmark alone, 3 tonnes of grain per day are recycled and turned into flour. They consider these by-products as elementary resources whose use can benefit both the environment and health, by reducing the CO2 impact of food production and addressing the upcoming calorie deficit. According to Karin BEUKEL, there is a real potential in using the industrial side streams to create more circular innovation. Looking further, they are also planning to offset their global production and are currently looking for partners across the world to expand their positive impact.

Finally, the Spanish hops producer **Lúpulo Cantaléon** addressed its constraints regarding plant waste in organic farming. At the moment, the enormous amount of by-product plant waste regenerated from the organic hops harvest cannot be composted because of the risk of fungi development, leaving them with no other choice than to burn it. There are actively searching for institutions to find a long-term solution, to address this missed opportunity for organic matter waste. On their farm, they already implemented more responsible solutions via innovation, such as the replacement of plastic ropes for compostable ones.

To watch the recording of the panel discussion, visit the Forum website [www.forumforagriculture.com/2022-videos/](http://www.forumforagriculture.com/2022-videos/)

Learn more about:

**Lúpulo Cantaléon**  
<http://www.cantaleon.com/>

**fruitboxatwork**  
<https://www.fruitboxatwork.com/>

**Agrain**  
[www.agrainproducts.com](http://www.agrainproducts.com) | [www.circular-foodtech.com](http://www.circular-foodtech.com)

**La Junquera Regenerative Farm and Entrepreneurship HUB**  
<https://www.lajunquera.com/>



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# Life European Networks for private land conservation

*ENPLC intend to build a community of European land conservation practitioners who work together on testing and upscaling the most promising tools for private land conservation, advocating for better financial incentives, engaging citizens, and raising public awareness.*

*ENPLC is an EU-wide network, a union between landowners and conservationists.*



@ The LIFE ENPLC members cheer the EU LIFE programme's 30th anniversary, 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2022, Spain.

## Meet our ambassadors, they are Private Land Conservation Superhero!

At ENPLC, we believe individual action can have a domino effect.

Inspirational people try to preserve land for future generations. They work hard to withstand climate change's challenges and bring back lost biodiversity. They deserve more recognition!

In their conservation work, they are looking for solutions such as composting, crop rotation, permaculture, wildlife corridors, native species planting, protected area establishment and much more.

Get inspired by our ambassadors and read their stories on **ENPLC website**.

We are honoured to have them on board and will share more stories pretty soon. Stay tuned.

-  [www.enplc.eu](http://www.enplc.eu)
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### AMBASSADOR #1

**Béla JANKOVICH DE JESZENICE** leads the operations of his family's estate 'Jankovich Birtok' in Hungary. He engages strongly on the intersections of agriculture, the environment and technical and social innovation.



### AMBASSADOR #2

**Daniel CISMAS** is managing, since 2009 the Topa organic farm, a family affair, in Romania. The 40 hectares are a well-kept balance between grasslands, gardens and arable land.



This project has received funding from the European Union's LIFE programme under grant agreement LIFE19 PRE/NL/000003



# Famigro Award 2022

Marie-Christine SCHÖNBORN, YFCS



María del Pilar, Franziska, Vollrad, Karl-Ludwig VON POSCHINGER

One of the most important aims of the Young Friends of the Countryside (YFCS) is to promote the role of young people in preserving the future of the European countryside. Karl GROTFELT very generously offered to support the YFCS with this mission, the Famigro Award. This award is granted annually to a young European countryside entrepreneur, who has made a special contribution to the rural economy and environment. Famigro itself is a private company belonging to the Grotenfelt family and was founded by Karl GROTFELT in 1985, thus setting a wonderful example to young entrepreneurs.

In order to find the best winner, strict criteria apply, such as a business plan showing the successful development of one or more activities aiming at generating financial funds ensuring the continuity of the private enterprise. Furthermore, it aims at developing innovative solutions for the creation and conservation of local economic development and fostering business opportunities. Last, but not least, the project should be replicable, scalable, have a long-term vision and should set a good example to other (rural) communities and be adaptable to different rural contexts.

This year, the prize is awarded to Karl-Ludwig VON POSCHINGER and his project Gut Waltersteig. Gut Waltersteig is an agricultural and forestry family business, which has been kept as the family seat for

4 generations and is located in the Upper Bavarian Alpine foothills close to Munich. With the generational change, Karl-Ludwig VON POSCHINGER expanded and developed new sources of income for the estate by aiming to bring companies and private individuals from the Munich area to Gut Waltersteig, helping employees/individuals to disconnect and slow down. In 2016, he introduced Gut Waltersteig as also an event location. The former stable and the old threshing floor are now used for company parties, weddings, cooking classes, team building events and meetings. In the former caretaker's house, guests can now be accommodated. In addition, a video shooting gallery brings

hunters to Gut Waltersteig. Furthermore, the event "cut your own Christmas tree" has become a very popular event for families. The new sources of income are all based on the principles of sustainability, regionality, and regional networking between different estates, thus strengthening the local economy. The jury congratulates Gut Waltersteig for all its very impressive achievements and is looking forward to its next developments!

This year, it was decided that the project Gårdsfisk by Johan LJUNGQUIST will receive a Diploma of Recognition for its outstanding innovative idea of land-based fish farming. Gårdsfisk is able to show that several farmhouses can produce a high amount of produce, whilst farming in a sustainable way. Their project offers a brilliant new way for land-based farmers to transition into a more sustainable business with a new business model. Furthermore, Gårdsfisk has introduced a circular system, by, for example, using the surpluses of nutrients from farm fishing in agriculture.

The jury of the Famigro Award would like to congratulate Karl-Ludwig VON POSCHINGER and Johan LJUNGQUIST for their outstanding projects and wish them the best of luck with their enterprises! The Young Friends of the Countryside are extremely grateful to Karl GROTFELT, who very generously set up this award, enabling us to support young entrepreneurs who have dedicated themselves to supporting the rural economy.





## EUWAY Kick-off Meeting

Daniel MONTELEONE, ELO

The EUWAY project held its kick-off in a hybrid format at the Technical University of the Shannon (TUS) in Thurles, Ireland on April 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. Due to continued COVID, the meeting was held in a hybrid format. The project is intended to follow a bottom-up approach by examining best practices in sustainable water management in farming and making that knowledge accessible and transposable across Europe. Of particular excitement, ELO is coordinating the project in addition to its regular responsibilities of communication and dissemination.

The conference moved at a fast pace, where information and perspectives were spread over 2 days. It began with each partner introducing their organization, though many have collaborated on rural development projects in the past with each other and all with ELO in previous years working on various issues. Following an overview of the project, the team discussed each of the Work Packages to make sure vision and task expectation were aligned. Later in the day, the project partners visited the Cabragh Wetlands and the Rock of Cashel, both important monuments in this part of the Emerald Isle.

The second day focused almost entirely on a workshop on Work Package 1, led by TUS. During this work package, a national guide will be developed for each partner country, which will serve as the backbone of an EU guide, serving an important role in providing the state-of-the art of sustainable water management across Europe.

If you are keen to learn more about the project or become involved in the project, follow us on Facebook or Twitter or contact project coordinator Daniel MONTELEONE at [Daniel.montealeone@elo.org](mailto:Daniel.montealeone@elo.org).

 @EuwayProject

 EUWAY



## Microservices project

Daniel MONTELEONE, ELO



One year into the 36-month BiodivERsA project Microservices, and the project is going wonderfully. This project's goal is to Predicting climate change impacts on the crop microbiome and cascading effects on ecosystem services delivery in agroecosystems.

Microservices held its most recent meeting virtually on June 3, to allow partners from all across Europe to come together. Each key aspect of the project was discussed. ELO is co-lead on Work Package 1 and 6, notably responsible for the communication and dissemination of the project. ELO has been reaching out to stakeholders, especially farmers and landowners, across Europe, to get their perspectives and assistance on the project.

Microservices is an extremely important project to ELO and European Landowners because it recognizes that an accelerated pace of climate change directly threatens food production in the context of a growing population. MICROSERVICES' main goal is to improve the forecasting capacity of the cascading effects of climate change on crop-associated microbial diversity, crop-microbiome interactions, and the agricultural ecosystem services delivered by the microbiome, thereby contributing to a sustainable agriculture, impacting conservation and policy agendas, and raising public awareness of the importance of soil biodiversity for the planet by using Earth Observation based on regional climate models.

To learn more about the project, visit us on social media or contact us here at ELO. We look forward to sharing this project in the coming years!

 @microservices21




## 3<sup>rd</sup> Transnational Meeting

Daniel MONTELEONE, ELO


The HERIT project held its 3<sup>rd</sup> transnational meeting at CITIC (Centro de Investigación en TIC) in A Coruna, Spain on May 24-25th. This project, led by ELO, aims to provide the needed training to private-owners and their employees so that they can overcome the negative impacts of the COVID-19 crisis by developing and professionally managing digital activities related to the communication of their cultural heritage. In the long-term, this aspires to foster development, commercialization, and promotion of tourism connected to cultural heritage. As the project reaches its halfway mark, it continues to grow in both interest and content.


The meeting began with an introduction by Manuel GONZÁLEZ PENEDO, director of CITIC, who welcomed all the project partners. Daniel MONTELEONE then introduced the project further and provided an overview of the tasks, making sure all partners present were aligned in vision and understood the expectations of their tasks. Various intellectual outputs were discussed, including the conclusion of the case studies, which form an important skeleton in the training course of the project, the development of the curriculum, and the creation of the MOOC (Massive Open Online Course). However, the majority of the meeting was devoted to a workshop led by Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier, which was the development of the training modules, in order to combine both creativity and consistency across them.

As we transition to the second half of the project, we will be seeking out heritage house owners to experience the training modules we have developed for them. If you would like to be a part of this wonderful opportunity, please contact project coordinator at [Daniel.montealeone@elo.org](mailto:Daniel.montealeone@elo.org) or visit us on social media (we're even on Instagram!)

 @ErasmusHerit

 Herit

 herit.eu

 herit-erasmus.eu



The REFLOW (Phosphorus REcovery for Fertilisers from dairy processing Waste) project is an interdisciplinary cross-sectoral European Training Network (ETN) within the Horizon 2020 programme, under the Marie SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE actions. With a focus on the dairy industry, specifically its waste products, the REFLOW project has 3 main objectives: (i) developing and demonstrating Phosphorus product recovery and reuse processes from dairy processing waste (ii) establishing optimum values and application rates of such fertiliser products, and (iii) addressing overarching sustainability challenges across environmental, economic, social, and food safety sectors.

In addition to industry representatives, academic advisors, and ELO, the project has 13 Early-Stage Researchers (ESRs) placed in key partners across Europe. Two of these ESRs, Sergio GARMENDIA LEMUS and Marta BEHJAT, are involved at ELO, with Sergio being an employee and Marta having done her secondment at the HQ in Brussels in May 2022.

The REFLOW project has been invited to both attend and organise several conferences, however in June it will present at two highly important consecutive conferences: the European Sustainable Phosphorus Conference 4 (focused on industry and policy) and Phosphorus in Europe Research Meeting 5 (focused on research), both in Vienna, Austria. Here, the project will be able to share its accomplishments alongside countless stakeholders in the phosphorus industry and beyond (companies, entrepreneurs, government representatives, etc.) to discuss phosphorus and nutrients sustainability actions, as well as long-term sustainable policies.

We look forward to sharing with you the results of the research as it becomes available, especially the outputs from the ESRs who have been working tirelessly on this project here at ELO. If you would like to learn more about the research, please contact the project.

 @ETNReflow

 @etnreflow

 @etnreflow

 @reflow-etn

 @REFLOW Project

## Diary dates

### 13-14 September, Sweden

Wildlife Estates General Assembly  
[www.wildlife-estates.eu](http://www.wildlife-estates.eu)

### 26-29 September

European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW)  
[www.eusew.eu](http://www.eusew.eu)

### 28-29 September

OECD 13th Rural Development Conference: Building sustainable, resilient and thriving rural places  
<https://oecd-events.org/13th-rural-conference>

### 28-29 September, online

European Research & Innovation Days  
<https://ec.europa.eu/research-and-innovation/en>

### 29 September, worldwide

International Day of Awareness of Food and Waste  
[www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

### 29-30 September, Spain

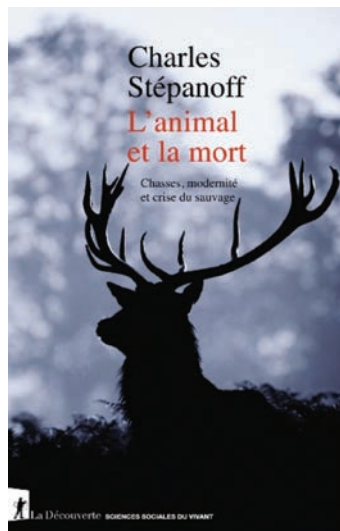
2nd Agri Biodiversity Summit in Malaga  
[www.elo.org](http://www.elo.org)

## Animals and Death

### Hunts, Modernity and the Crisis of the Wild

CHARLES STÉPANOFF

PUBLISHER: LA DÉCOUVERTE, 2021.



Modernity has divided animals between those who are worthy of protection and love and those who serve as raw material for industry. How to understand this strange partition between protective love and intensive exploitation? Because it precedes this alternative and continues to disturb it, hunting offers an exceptional point of observation to question our contradictory relationships with living being in the midst of an ecological crisis.

Based on an immersive investigation carried out over the past two years on the borders of Perche, Beauce and Yvelines not far from Paris, Charles STÉPANOFF documents the accelerated erosion of rural biodiversity, the ethics of those who kill for food, the islands of resistance to modernization policies, as well as recent fights between animal activists and hunters. Exploring ancient popular cosmologies and

neo-savage rituals honoring game, the anthropologist reveals the figure of the "empathic predator" and the paradoxical relationship between hunting, protection, and compassion. In a large-scale comparative approach, the author summons prehistory, history, philosophy and ethnology of the hunting peoples and reveals the wild origins of political sovereignty.

Over the course of a rich journey, this book sheds new light on the anthropological and ecological foundations of violence exerted on the living. And, by questioning the singular moral hierarchy that it engenders today, he gives our sensitive gaze another depth of field.

France culture - Arte 2021 Award  
 François SOMMER 2022 Award

Let's increase our food supply  
 without  
 reducing theirs

the  
 good  
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 plan

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