

CountrySide

European Landowners' Organization

N° 190

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2020 - BIMONTHLY - EN



FFA2020 second Online Live: Rewarding sustainability in the food system

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Editorial

Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, *Secretary General*

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The Biodiversity strategy plans to protect 30% of the surface area of the European Union, of which 1/3rd will be protected strictly on the basis of the Natura 2000 designation, national designations and the addition of ecological corridors.

Protecting is praiseworthy, but when protecting only amounts to prohibiting any rural activities, such as hunting or fishing for example, it is felt by those in the countryside as an aggression from city-dwellers.

We must be aware that the main flaw in current policies is the lack of an economic approach. It's important to put a value on the ecosystem of the common good provided by biodiversity: food, timber, pest control, filtering of pollutants and others to give a price signal reflecting the scarcity of environmental resources.

It is the same logic as applies when giving a cost to CO₂ to fight climate change. This discipline is in fact brand new, and politicians faced with the number of open questions have clearly not dared to include farmers and foresters to be paid for environmental services. When you do not have a coherent approach, a ban makes it all too easy to run away from your responsibilities without taking any risks! Is it enough to increase the number of preserved areas on our planet or would it not be better to integrate diversity and human activities?

Is there not confusion between cause and mean? If I take the example of hunting or fishing, opposition to these comes more from the thought of the animal suffering than from the protection of biodiversity. In fact, it all comes down to an opposition between city ecology and countryside ecology! The solution of prohibition can only disappoint because it lacks coherence and is based on a too fragmented protection, often more focused on the species or animal rather than on the "big picture" of ecosystems.

In these difficult times the Green Deal could at least have the audacity to rise to the occasion and offer a glimmer of hope rather than a sense of despair.



The FFA2020 Team members who were able to join in person



Session 2, John GILLILAND, Ulrike SAPIRO, Jennifer BAKER, Tassos HANIOTIS, Marjon KROL

FFA2020 second Online Live: Rewarding sustainability in the food system



FFA2020 returns to Brussels with an open debate on rewarding food system sustainability

Mark TITTERINGTON, responsible for FFA strategy and partnerships

In partnership with:



The Forum for the Future of Agriculture returned to Brussels at the end of October with the second of its Online Live events, hosted by the journalist, Jennifer BAKER. Participants from across the global FFA network joined the event which was focused on *Rewarding sustainability in the food system*. In particular, the meeting explored the premise that the future of the food system is likely to rely on two interdependent drivers: the adaptation and reinvention of food system business models; and the development of practices that can generate agri-solutions to climate change which create value for the providers and society at large.

Urgency for action

In his opening address, FFA Chairman, Janez POTOČNIK, made clear that *"Farmers deserve a decent life where they are rewarded for the food they produce and the public goods that they provide"*. But he again reiterated the urgency of planning for a sustainable future, citing the recent WWF report which revealed ice sheets melting to their lowest levels since records began alongside an alarming loss of global species and biodiversity since 1970.

The former EU Environment Commissioner

repeated his argument that the current market signals do not reflect the true environmental cost of producing food and that there are simply "hard boundaries" to life on this planet. He argued that it is vital that market signals become more aligned with true costs of producing, particularly accounting for the environmental impact, and that innovative actors in the food system, especially growers, should be rewarded for adapting or reinventing their business models to provide public goods, including agri-solutions to climate change.

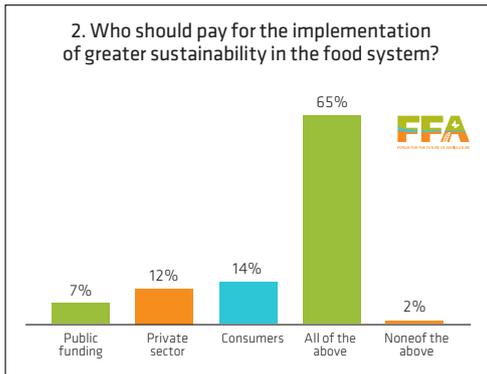
Adapting and reinventing food system business models

In the panel session on sustainable agri-food business models, which followed Janez POTOČNIK's opening address, Organics Europe Brussels Director, Eduardo CUOCO, built on this theme. He framed the discussion from the organic farming perspective, stating that the industrial agriculture model that is currently in place *"is generating a vicious circle."* He stressed the importance of creating policy that aids in the development of the market. A second fundamental factor is working on consumer behaviour and consumer education. E. CUOCO believes that retailers can play an important role in this transition in explaining *"how the price of a prod-*

uct is built" emphasising that it is not an easy issue. He stressed that food prices are too cheap and when consumers save money with prices, they pay the price elsewhere, pointing to the environmental impacts that our current food system has inflicted on the world.

In a similar vein, Ben O'BRIEN, Europe Director of Beef+Lamb New Zealand argued that science and technology, and the pace of its development, will always be the determining factor in the reinvention or adaptation of business models. He made clear that *"change can only happen as fast as is technically possible"* and that even then, *"... the rate at which people will change their behaviours is dependent upon their incentive to change"*. It is clear from ongoing discussion around this point, that where markets fail to provide the incentive to change, public intervention is needed both from a financial compensation as well as regulatory perspective.

Rabobank's Global Head of Sustainability, Bas RUITER, built on this, arguing that it will be a collective challenge, involving a coalition of all actors, to drive the change necessary to produce a more resilient and sustainable food system. He stressed that it cannot be the responsibility of one or even a few actors, and that there is an alignment on the need



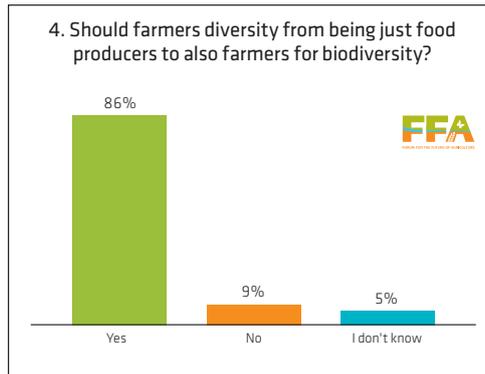
to reflect 'true pricing' (the real cost of the goods and services produced) in the price we pay for food. It was clear, for him, that this is not happening and, consequently, consumers make different choices. In this respect, he felt that financial institutions, like Rabobank can play a substantive role, in supporting the adaptation or reinvention of food system business models, by linking the price of finance or credit to the sustainability performance of their clients.

Echoing the comments of B. RUITER, delegates to the conference agreed that it was not one food chain actor more than another that should pay for the achievement of greater sustainability in the food system-65% believed that it was a shared responsibility between the public and private sector and consumers (see poll question 2).

Creating shared value from agri-solutions to climate change

The second panel session took a deeper dive into the extent to which agri-solutions to climate change could emerge and how they could create and share additional value, particularly with growers. These solutions range from so-called carbon farming to regenerative and precision agriculture whilst further down the food chain concern improvements in processing, transportation, storage and shelf life.

Responding to the question of how to achieve this, Ulrike SAPIRO, Senior Director for Water, Sustainability and Stewardship at The Coca-Cola Company, said, "There isn't a silver bullet, there will be a number of policy, financial and risk management instruments that will have to play a role and for a very solid policy you need to really assess what are the problems you want to solve and what are the options available". Nevertheless, she made clear that she believes private sector actors, like The Coca-Cola Company, can and are playing a leading role in embedding sustainability into their supply chains and climate policy. She did say, however, that it will be important to align on and be clear with farmers and policy-makers what sustainability and climate change solutions look like, and – importantly – how they are rewarded.



Echoing the theme of rewarding growers properly for what they do, Marjon KROL, Market and Food Chain Manager at ZLTO, said that whilst, "... many farmers are aware of the needs from society, as long as they are paid only to produce affordable food, they [will] lack the resources to invest in the transition". She provided two examples where a coalition of actors are trying to address this at a local level in the Netherlands. The first concerns the *Biodiversity Monitor*, which requires dairy farmers to take action and quantify their contribution to biodiversity enhancements. The second example concerns carbon farming where an initiative has started with a small number growers who adopt practices designed to sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

And in this respect, Tassos HANIOTIS, Director of Strategy and Policy Analysis at the European Commission's Directorate General for Agriculture, argued that the reform of the Common Agriculture Policy will have to play a role in supporting growers in adopting practical measures that really can drive sustainability. For him, this involves a particular focus on soil health, where improvements in this area can unlock adjacent benefits in terms of water and biodiversity, as well as the productive capacity of the farm. Although T. HANIOTIS agreed with the urgency of the climate crisis, he also argued that we need to recognise the economic situation we are in, with respect to COVID-19. With the focus on food affordability likely to increase, adjustments to these price signals need to be handled carefully. In this respect, he suggested a two-step approach working to help consumers to understand how their food is produced, and at what cost, to influence purchasing deci-



Introduction, Jennifer BAKER and Janez POTOČNIK

sions, alongside technology adoption and practice changes that can improve the cost and sustainability of production.

John GILLILAND, OBE, Director of Agriculture and Sustainability at Devenish Nutrition, built on this and argued that, in his view the combination of technology and robust monitoring and measurement, was key to understanding and demonstrating how value can be created by taking action to improve farm resilience and sustainability and contributing solutions to climate change. He stressed the importance of striking a balance when running a farm. Economics cannot be prioritised over sustainability and health in the long run as it will impact the quality of the nutrients in the soil and the nutrients of the product. He emphasised the importance of healthy soil for farms trying to reach their own net zero targets and stressed the importance of harmonising the relationship between livestock and the land. One of the most effective practices that he mentioned was introducing Silvopasture, putting trees and animals together in the same area. J. GILLILAND dispelled the notion that ruminant agriculture is harmful stating "It is a myth that if you get rid of ruminant agriculture you sort out all the problems, you don't." He noted that ruminants play a key role in the inoculation of soil.

The benefit of this alignment between food and environmental sustainability, which J. GILLILAND alluded to, was borne out by the participants, with nearly 90% of them agreeing that growers should farm for biodiversity as well as food (see poll question 4).

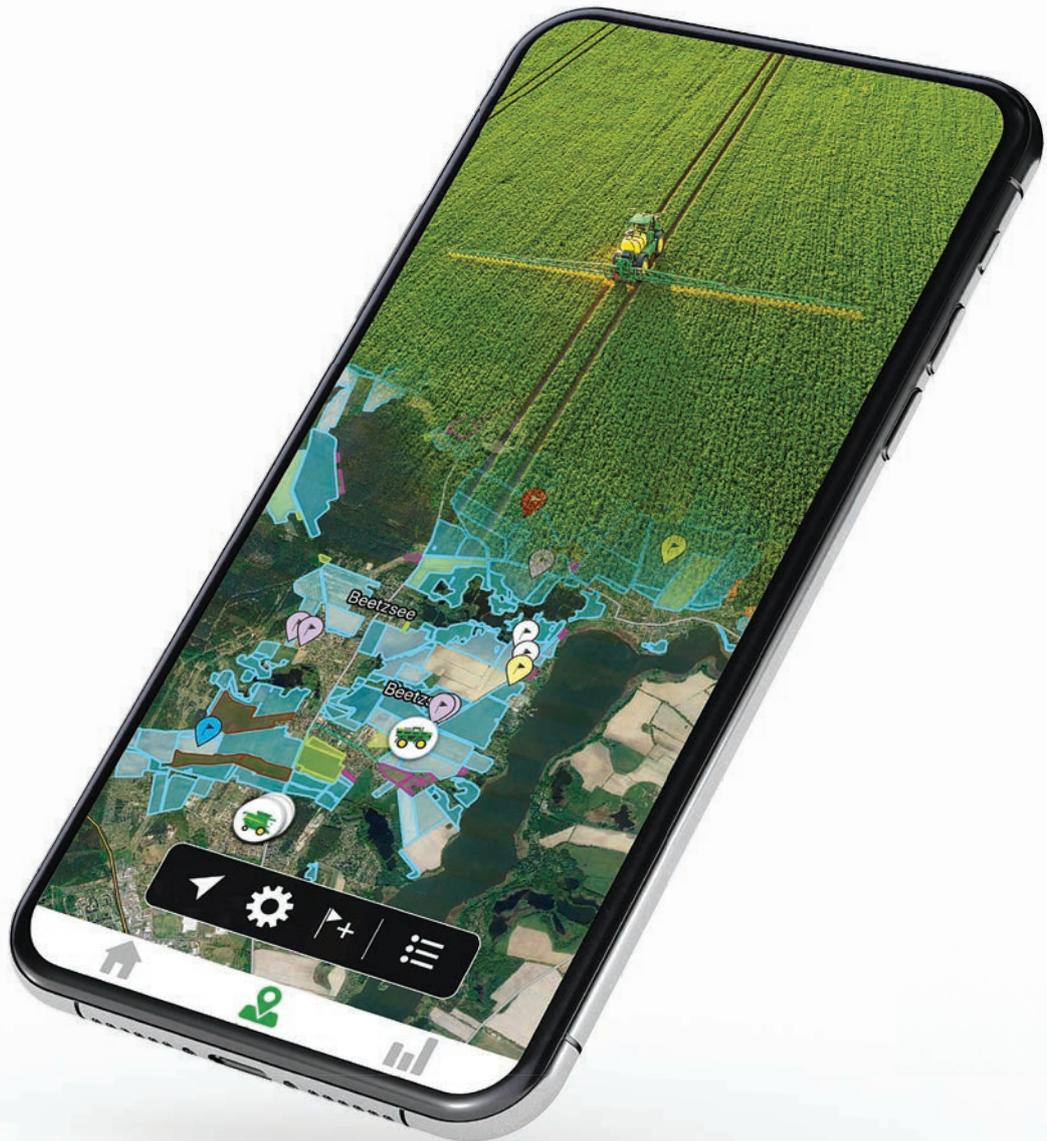
Surfacing the challenges but also some solutions

It was clear from this latest FFA2020 Online Live event that there is an ever-increasing consensus that the price signals in the agri-food system must reflect the true cost to the environment and that growers must be rewarded for the sustainability services they provide. Quite simply, nobody will find the incentive to adapt and reinvent business models, at scale, unless the value is rewarded. As usual in these discussions, there is a lot of alignment on the challenge, and even at a high level on how all actors can work together to solve them. But the discussion at this event also focused on many practical steps that are beginning to be taken. These may still be 'green shoots' or 'lighthouse' examples but they provide some confidence that different stakeholders may be coming together to reward greater resilience and sustainability in the food system. The remaining question, as always, is the extent of the scale and pace that can be achieved in implementation.

For more information and to watch the replay: www.forumforagriculture.com

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JOHN DEERE

NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE

The ELO opens itself to member organizations from all European countries

More than 50 people, representing 18 European countries, took part in the ELO General Assembly held on December 2 in the "online" form. The event was co-organized by the member organizations of ELO from Portugal as this country shall take over the EU Council Presidency from January 1.

Emmanuelle MIKOSZ, ELO



Herdade do Pinheiro, Portugal.

Eduardo OLIVEIRA E SOUSA, The Confederation of Portuguese Farmers (CAP), defined three major issues of the moment, COVID consequences holding the first place; the budget discussions holding the second and potential outcomes of a hard Brexit as third. He also presented the document his organization has prepared tackling with seven important matters in a horizontal way relating to the sustainable use of energy, technological advance and innovation, digitalization of procedures, forest management and forestry, how to deal with climate change, water and soil or developing industries.

António GONÇALVES FERREIRA, Mediterranean Forest Union (UNAC), noted that the 1100 members of UNAC currently manage over 700 000 ha of forest and agricultural land. One needs to keep in mind that in the north, farms rarely account for more than 5 ha in average whereas in the south of Portugal it is the complete opposite. Such difference can be explained by a significant difference in climate and soil, making southern farms not viable economically on small surfaces. He reminded that the main activity is Cork Oak agroforestry, which accounts for a third of the Portuguese's forest economy. That portion of the forest market remained rather stable in the last twenty years; however, a small number of the Cork Oak trees have been lost per hectare due to climate change variations. These forests represent the largest carbon sink within Portugal and have been protected since the 12th century.

António PAULA SOARES, National Association of Rural Owners (ANPC), added to this point that there is a need to share more and more positive stories with society, especially as it becomes more and more concerned with biodiversity and environmental issues. He gave the concrete example of the reintroduction of the Iberian Lynx, which began in 2014. Such a project demands a significant amount of time for preparing the ground and raising awareness among the public, especially rural actors to support the project. The strong collaboration between Portuguese and Spanish landowners, hunters, and NGO's has been useful in building long-term trust and strong networks; and was and continues

to be key to its success. Today, there are over 160 Lynx in the region, with the extremely noteworthy number of 60 Lynx having been born in the wild since the inception of this programme.

The participants also had the opportunity to exchange on the priorities of the Portuguese Presidency for the EU with Nuno BANZA, ICNF President. Virtual meetings with the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Environment will take place in January. To prepare these discussions the "ELO's main messages for the Portuguese Presidency for its agricultural and environmental priorities" were hand over to the "virtual hands" of their respective teams.

Followed the presentation of ELO's actions and activities by Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, ELO Secretary General, and the "tour de table", which allowed all member organizations to present the latest developments and the most pressing questions from their organizations and countries, which included among others the European Green Deal, CAP National Strategic Plans, and the state of play of the EU Forest and Biodiversity strategies.

Last but not least, the unanimous vote at the GA confirmed that any relevant organization based in Europe can become an ELO "active member".

The next GA will take place from June 14-16 in Slovenia.

ELO's main messages for the Portuguese Presidency for its agricultural and environmental priorities

1. **Need to unlock the potential of land-based sectors for an EU Green Deal**
2. **Striving for competitive sustainable food systems – how to integrate the 2030 Farm to Fork targets**
3. **The CAP remains the best tool for land managers across the EU**
4. **The importance of future-proofing European rural areas**
5. **How to boost the climate mitigation potential of land-based sectors – the role of carbon farming**
6. **The importance of a robust and timely Forest Strategy post-2020**
7. **Biodiversity Strategy 2030 – the potential of private conservation**



Renata MARON, Tv Presenter and Reporter, Terraviva (bottom)



Jurgen TACK, ELO Scientific Director; Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, ELO Secretary General

Dialogue on Sustainable Food and Agriculture: Leading the transition -

Sharing experiences on carbon farming & precision agriculture

More than 450 participants joined us on November 23, during our Dialogue on Sustainable Food and Agriculture.

What a success, what a debate, this live from **Brussels** and **Brazil** was more than nurturing. On behalf of the **European Landowners' Organization** and **Apex-Brasil**, we would like to warmly thank our speakers, who joined on site or remotely, for their vision and insights.

"Let's now make the desire to lead the transition towards a sustainable food system a reality" concluded the moderator. You can watch in replay on ELO website.



"I will frame the discussion through two main messages. The first one is that productivity growth is essential for sustainability. Hence carbon farming, precision agriculture, and other technological advances - notably through plant and animal breeding - have a vital role to play. Too often the two concepts are put in opposition, but insofar as productivity growth involves using fewer scarce resources to produce a given output it is actually central to improved sustainability.

The second point is that while productivity growth is necessary it will still not be sufficient. Coherent policy packages will need to meet environmental and climate objectives, and those packages will involve making difficult trade-offs across competing objectives."

Jonathan BROOKS, Head of Division, Agricultural and Resources Policies



"Yes, 2020 has definitely been a very long and sad year. In the midst of all the gloom, there are positive facts." H.E. Marcos GALVÃO, Brazilian Ambassador at the European Union



"The role of the land manager will be very important to decarbonized our economy in Europe. The Carbon farming scheme, aims to rewards farmers for their efforts and the protection they guarantee. It is seen as a good opportunity to see it really happening on the ground." Nicola DI VIRGILIO, Seconded National Expert, DG AGRI, European Commission

What to expect from the next EU forest strategy?

On October 27, the European Parliament's "Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside" Intergroup held an online conference entitled "What to expect from the next EU Forest Strategy?". The event was hosted by the President of the Intergroup, MEP Álvaro AMARO and its Vice-Presidents MEP Simone SCHMIEDTBAUER and Andželika MOŽDŽANOWSKA. With an attendance of 180 participants, the meeting was moderated by Jurgen TACK, ELO Scientific Director and General Director of Landelijk Vlaanderen.



Amedeo MISSIR DI LUSIGNANO, ELO

The current Forest Strategy is expiring in 2020. Now is the time to improve it. As it triggers an increasing level of attention, the state of EU forests needs protection and coherence. Petri SARVAMAA, MEP and EP Rapporteur on the Forest Strategy reminded us that "Forests are multifunctional and serve several purposes, they are at the heart of the biggest challenges we are bound to face, that is, climate change and biodiversity. Within that scope, the EU Forest strategy will play a vital role and should be balanced between the economic, environmental, and social interest to achieve the best outcome".

Claudia OLAZABAL, Head of Unit Natural Capital, DG Environment explained it will require a huge joint venture across the European Commission to conduct a multidisciplinary approach and shape the Forest Strategy around the Green Deal. The Climate agenda will have to be included as well as the production of biobased, reusable and recyclable products. To achieve an effective and long-lasting sustainable transformation, rural areas will need help in protecting nature and restore it where it has been damaged. Up to 30% of EU land and sea-areas will have to be protected with legally binding targets. The resilience will be mainly tackled with the 3 billion trees plant programme to augment woodland surface through both reforestation and afforestation.

Each of the panellists' intervention revolves around the key role of management practices. Frédéric PETIT, NTF President, reminded us that amongst the challenges they are facing, rebuilding confidence is key. Many producers are discouraged and need to be supported to restore areas affected and to manage to maintain a good level of production, make progress in forestry practices, and make the right choice in reforestation species. Dr Eckart SENITZA, President of Pro Silva Europe added that a smart and active forest management strategy also includes supervision measures that involve hunting and fisheries that are essential to biodiversity. Ronan UHEL, Scientific Adviser, European Environment Agency pointed out the importance of qualifying and quantifying the current status of European forests and assess their level of diversity at all scales. The *Forest Information System for Europe*

INTERGROUP ON "BIODIVERSITY, HUNTING, COUNTRYSIDE"

27.10.2020
16.30 - 18.30
Online event

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE NEXT EU FOREST STRATEGY?

In conjunction with **ELO**

Hosted by
MEP Álvaro Amaro
President of the Intergroup

MEP Simone Schmiedtbauer
Vice-President of the Intergroup
MEP Andželika Moždžanowska
Vice-President of the Intergroup

Introduction
MEP Petri Sarvamaa
Rapporteur for the EP's initiative report on the EU Forest Strategy

Keynote Speaker
Claudia Olazabal - DG ENV, Head of Unit, Natural Capital

Panel
Frédéric Petit - NTF, President
Ronan Uhel - Head of Natural Capital and Ecosystems, EEA
Dr. Eckart Senitza - Pro Silva, President (Europa)

should be reorganized as a non-usual business to facilitate access to information and knowledge services online.

Lastly, MEP Simone SCHMIEDTBAUER, reaffirmed that the sustainability of EU Forests and its role for climate adaptation and mitigation should be better incorporated in the future strategy. "We should look into innovative ways of funding the sector including carbon farming".

Overall, forest owners are willing to play an active part in the future Green Deal for Europe. Their first concern, however, is to restore degraded forest stands and to improve the resilience of the forest eco-

systems. The demand from society for quite different forest services and goods is steadily increasing. These benefits are supplied by forest owners, very often free of charge, which does not always motivate the owner to manage his property by optimising the supply of all these non-market services. There is a need to reward the stewardships of the land who are making a positive contribution to biodiversity financing mechanisms and the ELO is ready to support this.

More information on Intergroup website:
www.biodiversityhuntingcountryside.eu

Delay of EU Forest Strategy 2020

The ELO welcomes the European Parliament report on the “EU Forest Strategy - The Way Forward” from MEP Petri SARVAMAA (report adopted in the plenary on October 6), and the Council Conclusions on EU Forest Strategy post-2020 (on November 10). There is a need for a new balanced and strengthened post-2020 EU Forest Strategy, developed together with Member States and stakeholders, supporting and complementing forest policy at national and subnational level. The EU Forest Strategy must remain the main policy tool to integrate European forests and forestry into all other policy areas. It should provide a holistic and inclusive framework, with sustainable forest management (SFM) principles at its core.

Oskars ZEMITIS, ELO

The ELO is, however, very much concerned about the delay of the publication of the Communication on the new EU Forest Strategy. As mentioned in the European Commission work programme for 2020, the new EU Forest Strategy, originally expected to be published in 2020, was already postponed until Q1 2021. Recently there has been some information coming from one of Commissions working groups meetings, that its publication could be postponed once again, for summer 2021.

The ELO does not understand why the EU Forest Strategy post-2020 is not a higher priority for the Commission, considering forests’ and the forest-based sector’s potential for tackling the ongoing climate and health crises. Also, the increasing natural disturbances such as bark beetles and forest fires pose a threat to these vital resources and require long-term commitment as well as a timely and well-coordinated action from the EU and its Member States. The ELO is concerned about a possible further delay that could have a negative impact on achieving the key objective to continue the transition to a greener and more sustainable economy.

The repercussions of climate change on rural areas are obvious. Recent years show, without any doubt, the hugely detrimental

effects of heatwaves, with extended drought periods, pest and diseases outbreaks and a new trend of mega-fires. These have massive immediate economic impacts but also environmental consequences. Climate change is influencing our complex ecosystems in many ways, namely by shifting the boundaries of today’s biogeographical regions. For forest ecosystems, the long lifespan of trees does not give much flexibility for rapid adaptation to climate change. A passive response is not an option. There is a pressing need for knowledge-based policy tools to face these challenges. Therefore, more attention needs to be paid to research and innovation in forests and forestry, and training and skills.

Positive elements on the roadmap:

- The EU Forest Strategy will build on SFM principles.
- The EU Forest Strategy will foster adaptation of forests to climate change.
- The strong economic dimension that the EU Forest Strategy must include.
- The foundations for innovation and promotion of new products that replace fossil-based materials and effectively contribute to a new climate-neutral society.
- The highlight that will be given on training, skills and jobs.
- The need to foster innovative financial incentives.
- The need to improve forest monitoring and the role that the EU Forest Strategy should play in that respect (although “harmonisation of monitoring” is unclear).

Problematic points in the roadmap:

- No recognition of the role of forest owners and managers.
- Limited scope which does not reflect the whole picture of EU forests.
- Consideration of and support to SFM is missing. No reference to *Forest Europe* criteria and principles when mentioning SFM.
- The purpose of restoration and preservation should be clarified and justified.

tion and preservation should be clarified and justified.

- The limited time is not in line with the balance needed between the main functions of forests and is not compatible with the strong economic dimension that the EUFS must have.
- Lack of progress on implementing payment of ecosystem services.
- No references to EU policies which are key for EU forests including the EU Bio-economy Strategy, the EU Climate Adaptation Strategy and Horizon Europe.

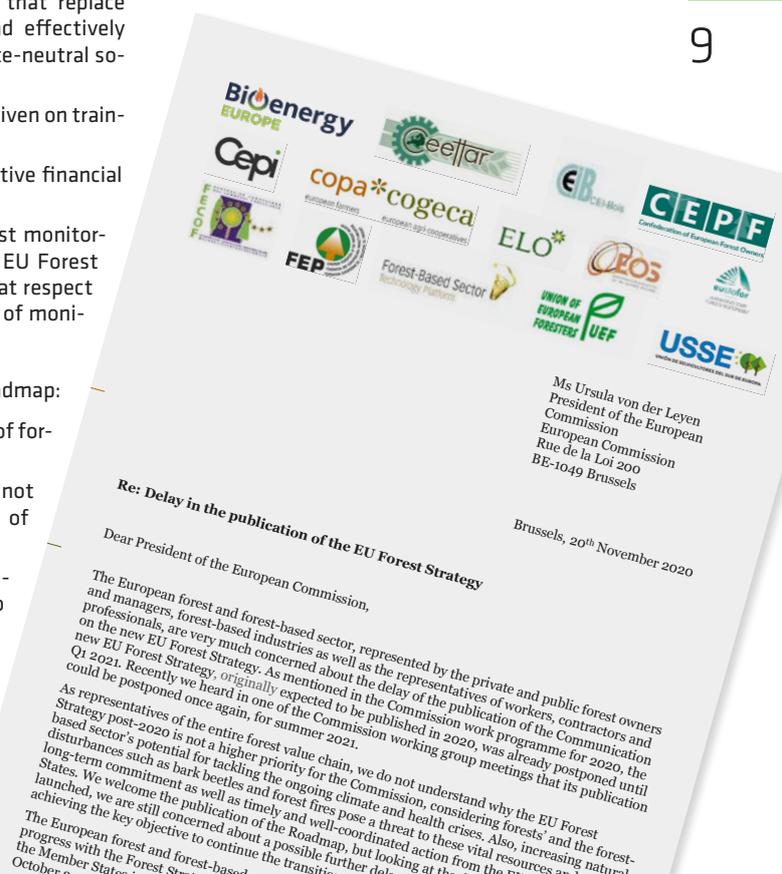
The ELO calls on the *European Commission* to make swift progress with the EU Forest Strategy post-2020, taking into account the recommendations given by the Member States in the Council Conclusions of November 11, 2020¹ and the *European Parliament* resolution of October 8, 2020².

¹ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-12695-2020-REV-1/en/pdf>

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2020-0257_EN.pdf

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InnoForEST Virtual Final Conference: An opportunity to showcase and debate project results

On October 28 the InnoForEST consortium gathered key stakeholders in the supply and financing of forest ecosystem services (FES) including forest owners and managers, non-profit and non-governmental organisation representatives, researchers, and entrepreneurs to showcase the InnoForEST project and its main findings, share lessons learned and policy, business and management recommendations, followed by a panel discussion to debate the results and their usability with key EU level representatives.

Lindsey CHUBB, ELO



Embedding innovation niches in the European biophysical and institutional context

Project partners Eeva PRIMMER (SYKE) and Davide GENELETTI (UNITN) provided an EU-wide overview on Work Package 2 (WP2): Mapping and assessing forest ecosystem services and institutional frameworks. WP2 was designed to collate a broad understanding of forest ecosystem services with the innovation potential from recent and emerging niches, in interaction with the existing socio-technical regime in the forest sector. For this purpose, WP2 merged European level information on ecosystem services and various governmental and industry sources to map the socio-economic and institutional landscape across Europe. From the analysis, a map and framework were produced, onto which further detailed innovation analyses can be based, and gain a deeper understanding of the social-ecological and institutional conditions for policy and business innovations.

Policy, management and business recommendations for boosting governance innovations to sustainably provide forest ecosystem services

Carolin MAIER (FVA) & Carol GROSSMAN (FVA) presented recommendations for boosting governance innovations to sustainably provide FES. The project results suggest that all six targeted actor groups can contribute to securing FES provision and financing by catering to one of more of

the overarching themes, or by addressing them through different means. More information about these recommendations can be found in Deliverable 6.3 and the targeted policy briefs, available soon on the project website.

Chances and challenges for governance innovations in the EU forestry sector

A panel discussion offered opportunities for exchange on the following questions: (1) What are the main chances and challenges of the EU forestry sector to enhance the sustainable provision of FES? And (2) how can we boost the development of governance innovations for FES provision?

For the forest sector, Eeva PRIMMER (SYKE) highlighted, an important message would be to open the debate and consider what different audiences and stakeholders have, examine the ecosystem services that are often framed as regulating services (e.g., flood prevention, carbon sequestration, green infrastructure) and truly take these as opportunities for the future.

Following this, António PAULA SOARES (ANPC - National Association of Landowners in Portugal, CAP - Confederation of Portuguese Farmers) emphasised that, as explained in InnoForEST, solutions cannot just be provided at the EU-level. There needs to be a general plan, one that is adapted to each region to a level that goes to each Member State as there are many different scenarios across EU forests. We need new policies and business models

that are attractive and always consider the principal of the three pillars of sustainability: social, economic and environmental. We cannot just reach for the environmental pillar without considering the economic impact for forest owners and managers and societal demand.

Conceição SANTOS SILVA (UNAC - Mediterranean Forest Union) concurred with the point from A. SOARES about the 3 pillars of sustainability and went on to further say that the economic driver is a major challenge in countries like Portugal where forests are mainly private. We must find new ways of rewarding landowners such as direct payments or indirect measures e.g., green reduced taxation, FSC schemes and other measures that could help in rewarding landowners.

Michael WOLF (DG AGRI) expressed that, while we can see is that the forest area has been growing in the past decades, the ecosystems are under increasing pressure due to climate change which intensifies other key drivers such as pressures, pests, extreme weather events, forest fires, among others. Therefore, we need a policy framework that coordinates and ensures the cohesion of forest-related policies and allow synergies with other sectors that influence forest management. In this context the EU forestry strategy will set a policy framework to deliver the forests we want in the future.

InnoForEST has produced a range of products that offer solutions, such as Methodological Manuals and Factsheets, integrated maps on European biophysical and institutional context conditions, targeted policy and business recommendations, among many others. Through innovative and coordinated governance mechanisms, InnoForEST shows ways that can lead to a more sustainable future of European forests.

 @InnoForEST
 @InnoForESTProject
 InnoForEST
 innoforest.eu



Implementing agroforestry systems on your farm



Daniel MONTELEONE, ELO

The aim of the AGFOSY project has been to create a complex yet flexible training system relating to agroforestry. It has been based on case studies and best practices that provide farmers and landowners with the skills, knowledge and competencies to implement agroforestry systems on their own farms. Agroforestry (AF) measures are able to bring a wide range of positive benefits to land management, as well as help landowners to achieve the goals of the CAP. It can provide solutions to different issues from unemployment to income diversification as ecological services.

On November 2, ELO hosted the AGFOSY Virtual Final Conference. After over 2 years, the Erasmus+ project is coming to a conclusion. The conference opened with brief words by the author of this text, an introduction to the project by Martina BELASOVA of ASZ and opening remarks by the esteemed Patrick WORMS of EURAF.

Then, project partners presented the various Intellectual Outputs (which are available on AGFOSY website). Each of these innovative learning modules was explained in great detail to help inform the audience.

The next portion of the final conference was the personal agroforestry experiences of various farmers and academics from across Central Europe. Judit CSÍKVÁRI spoke to the audience about her family farm's development of agroforestry and how it's worked. Tamás RÉTFALVI and Andrea VITYI spoke about biodiversity, microclimate and wildlife management. Radim KOTRBA presented a case study on how agroforestry has helped reduce erosion and improve the farm's environment.

Panelists and project partners then came together to answer questions about their farms. From questions as deep as the intricacies of the CAP in regards to agroforestry to questions as entertaining as everyone's favorite agroforestry plant, a lovely discussion was had by all involved. For those who would like to listen to the recording again or for the first time, please visit our Facebook or Twitter page for more details

The final conference was not the only activity this year. The education system, mentioned in previous articles and developed over the last year was completed, including study materials, methodological

sheets and educational videos, all translated into six different languages (Czech, English, French, Hungarian, Slovakian, and Spanish). These are added to the existing summary report Current State of the Art of the Agroforestry Implementation and 30 case studies which were created last year. Many of the Belgian case studies were even from ELO members who have used agroforestry on their own farms. Further, pilot testing was conducted with farmers all across Europe and newsletters were published to keep landowners and farmers informed about the project.

Although the project ended officially at the end of November, the website and social media for the project will remain online for at least the next 5 years and you can still follow us on the various platforms. For more information or if you'd like to be involved in future agroforestry projects and efforts, please contact us at Daniel.monteleone@elo.org or Twitter/Facebook.

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Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union



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Asociace soukromého zemědělství ČR



ASSOCIATION FRANÇAISE d'AGROFORESTERIE
 L'agriculture dans les règles de l'arbre



Project kick-off meeting of AGRIWATER

Marie-Christine BERGER, ELO

On December 1, the AGRIWATER project held its kick-off meeting virtually, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. AGRIWATER is a new ERASMUS+ project, which will run for 2 years and operate across the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Belgium. AGRIWATER aims to help farmers maintain their agricultural lands by implementing innovative adaptation measures to droughts, as well as raise awareness amongst landowners about why it is necessary to care for their lands.

During the Kick-off meeting all the partners introduced themselves and a workshop was held on the current situation of drought effects on agriculture in the participating AGRIWATER project partner countries. All partaking countries suffer from droughts in one way or another. Most countries already have some kind of state measures in place to help with the effects of droughts, however improvement is still needed to further improve the most efficient use of water resources.

The project will create an educational platform where farmers and landowners can gain knowledge on the practical implementation of different adaptation strategies and water management systems which they can then use on their own land to better cope with droughts. The materials will cover current situations and possibilities in partner countries and best practice examples of innovative adaptation tools to drought from each partner country.

 @AGRIWATERERASMUS
 @AGRIWATER

 Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Project no: 2020-1-CZ01-KA204-078212



A training programme for rural women to set up their own business based on multifunctional activities related to cultural heritage

Juliette OLIVIER, ELO

The 5th transnational meeting of the REWARD project was held online on October 22. During the meeting, the partners discussed the finalisation of training material aimed at providing rural women with the knowledge and skills necessary to carry out a successful business initiative based on multifunctional activities related to cultural heritage. The content of the training modules was inspired by case study examples collected in our partner countries. Introductory videos were also created to be used as a promotional and awareness-raising tool.



Module 5: Professional-Family Life balance

The five training modules will cover the following topics

- Rural development through multifunctional agriculture and cultural heritage
- Entrepreneurship with multifunctional agriculture
- Management of multifunctional agriculture
- Communication and marketing in rural areas
- Professional-Family balance

The training modules will soon be available free of charge on our training platform in English, Czech, French, Polish, Slovenian and Spanish.

The REWARD project is coming to an end. The final conference, where all our results will be presented, should take place in Brussels in spring 2021.

 reward-erasmus.eu
 [rewarderasmus/](https://www.facebook.com/rewarderasmus/)
 [reward-erasmus](https://twitter.com/reward-erasmus)

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Phasing out lead shot over wetlands at all costs



While the title of this article may sound appealing to some, the real costs associated with the recent European Commission (EC) Regulation concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), specifically regarding lead in gunshot in or around wetlands, is something that should concern many across the European Economic Area (EEA).

CIC Team

Most significantly, this regulation will create a number of issues for EEA States' enforcement officers, and 10 million citizens including hunters, farmers, sports' shooters, and competitive clay shooters. Restricting the use of lead shot for hunting over wetlands is a well-intentioned objective, and is already regulated in 23 European Union (EU) Member States due to the implementation of prescriptions by the Ramsar Convention. However, the EC Regulation contains a number of major problematic areas which all of the above-mentioned groups of EU citizens, and others, will need to comply with.

While these errors could have been avoided, unfortunately the EC ignored the advice of its own scientific agency (European Chemicals Agency - ECHA), leading to breaches of:

- The principle of proportionality;
- The presumption of innocence, resulting in the Commission exceeding the imple-

menting powers under REACH by creating new obligations for "consumers"; and

- The principle of legal certainty.

Sadly, the consequences will be extremely disproportionate for the EEA States' enforcement officers and the above-mentioned groups of citizens. It will result in multiple legal challenges in EEA countries. In this context, the text would have benefited immensely from further work in the REACH Committee before becoming law.

When considering the errors that arose as a consequence of ignoring the advice of ECHA, it is worth emphasising that:

- ECHA did not propose the inclusion of vaguely defined buffer zones around wetlands, the EC did.
- ECHA did not propose banning possession of lead shot and illegally reversing the presumption of innocence, the EC did.
- ECHA proposed a three-year phase out period based on a socio-economic assessment, but the EC changed this to two years.
- ECHA did not interpret the Ramsar definition so broadly to include even temporary puddles, the EC did, creating the possibility for unresolvable situations for hunters and enforcement officers.

Fortunately on the last point, a major change was put forward by the EC in the last phase of drafting of the Regulation.

The EC has explicitly mentioned that Member States can apply guidance on how to apply the definition of "wetlands" within their territory in line with the objectives of the restriction (protecting waterbirds) and proportionality.

As mentioned, the Regulation also exceeds its powers of implementation under REACH, with the Commission looking to create new obligations for consumers, including hunters, not to use or carry lead gunshots (i.e. consumer products) within 100 metres in or around wetlands. Typically, consumers do not have to meet obligations of this nature under REACH.

The same legal defect exists in the Regulation text whereby hunters are victims of a reversal of the 'presumption of innocence' and the burden of proof by banning possession of lead shot while wetland shooting.

Finally, this restriction on the use of lead in gunshot over wetlands is just the beginning! The EC already has in its drawers a draft regulation that will look ban the use of lead in a number of other applications outside wetlands, including in bullets on all terrains and in fishing tackle. Not only will this impact the hunting community, it will have serious implications for anglers, sport fishing and other businesses working in the fishing sector as well.

For more information:
www.cic-wildlife.org

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Gilbert de TURCKHEIM RIP

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the death of Gilbert de TURCKHEIM, a former FACE President (2003-2015) and Honorary FACE President. We are all shocked by his sudden loss.

Gilbert de TURCKHEIM was an outstanding ambassador for hunting and conservation for which he devoted much of his time and valuable skills. As FACE President, he played a major role in negotiating the FACE-Birdlife Agreement, which was signed on 12 October 2004. This agreement marked the end of more than a decade of emotive conflict, towards promoting constructive dialogue. Gilbert was also actively involved in promoting FACE's engagement and dialogue in the Agreement on the EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores. Gilbert's commitment to nature conservation and wildlife initiatives in France and Europe was long and varied, and stems from a lifetime of experience and passion. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Torbjorn LARSSON, FACE President



2021 FAMIGRO Award for Entrepreneurship



The GROTENFELT family represents more than 350 years of diversified landowning in Finland.



opportunity to join us during the FCS & YFCS General Assembly in Spain.

The 2021 Edition is now open, and applications should be sent before March 1. The form is available on the ELO and YFCS sites, where all the details and conditions are specified, including the age range to apply (18-40).

Our applicants and winners in recent years come from a wide range of industries and countries who want to achieve great things with their unique ideas. From a completely new kind of refuge in nature and so escape the city to an organic lemonade company

from France that not only convinces customers with delicious taste but also with a harmonious design and ecological responsibility.

Previous winners include: Coconat (<https://coconat-space.com/>), Coucoco (<https://www.coucoco.com/>), Wildernest Tiny House (<https://wildernest.be/build-your-tiny-house/>) and Wignac Cidre Naturel (<https://www.wignac.com/>).

For more information please contact: alberto.hermosel@yfcs.eu or visit www.yfcs.eu

Famigro is a private company belonging to this family and was founded by Karl GROTENFELT in 1985. In 2013, he created the Famigro Award, which is granted annually to a young European countryside entrepreneur that has made or is making a special contribution to the rural economy and environment.

Thanks to the initiative of Karl GROTENFELT, each year the YFCS can support a start-up project that provides answers to the current challenges of the rural sector.

Entrepreneurial projects contribute to the evolution of our rural countryside, while the respect of the environment and social responsibility is endorsed by each rural entrepreneur. The aim of the Famigro Award is to increase the chances of these valuable projects to succeed and grow, enabling them to benefit from the support of the network of the *Friends and Young Friends of the Countryside*.

The prize also includes EUR 5,000, an article in the Countryside Magazine and the

RURAL

SUSTAINABLE

PROFITABLE

TRADITIONAL & INNOVATIVE

EDITION 2021

FAMIGRO AWARD

PRESENTED BY THE YOUNG FRIENDS OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

WHAT?

- The award was created by Karl Grotenfelt in 2013 and will be given to the most innovative entrepreneurial idea. A project that will contribute to the evolution of our rural countryside, while endorsing their environmental & social responsibilities.

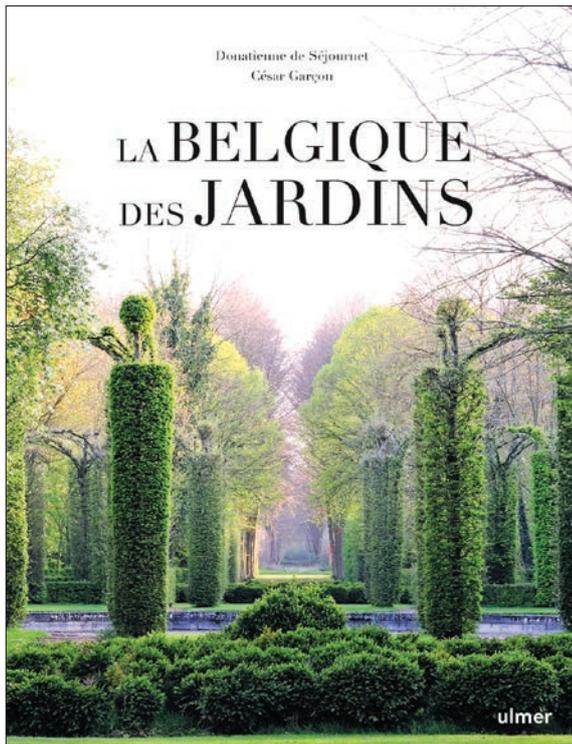
WHY?

The winner will receive:

- €5,000 prize
- A diploma
- Exposure on our written & online channels
- Invitation to our General Assembly in June 2021 in Cordoba, Spain

HOW?

- if you are an 18-40 year old entrepreneur, who is a EU/UK citizen, please contact alberto.hermosel@yfcs.eu for more details!



La Belgique des jardins

Donatienne DE SÉJOURNET,
César GARÇON
EDITIONS ULMER, 2020
ISBN: 9782379221330

"La Belgique des jardins", is a photographic immersive in Belgium's most beautiful gardens, both historical and contemporary.

Belgium has a great gardening tradition: from 18th century gardens, such as that of the flamboyant Prince de Ligne in Beloeil; to the very contemporary gardens of the Kanaal district in Antwerp, through the creations of internationally renowned landscape designers such as René PECHERE, Jacques WIRTZ, Eric DHONT or Paul DEROOSE, or the famous arboretums of Kalmthout and Wespelaar with their incomparable botanical collections. Without forgetting historic gardens such as Hex, Attre, Freÿr, Annevoie, Argenteuil...

César GARÇON spent more than 2 years tracking down the most beautiful lights and capturing 30 previously unpublished images of the most beautiful and representative gardens in the country. Accompanied by the texts of Donatienne de SEJOURNET, a garden enthusiast and historian, they are placed in their historical, cultural and botanical context. A beautiful gift book for garden lovers!

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www.welcomingestateswebsite.com

Diary dates



11 January, Brussels, webinar

Alternative Healthy Diets for the New Year; YFCS monthly webinar
www.yfcs.eu

20 January, Brussels, online

Deadline to apply for the Soil and Land Management Award
www.europeanlandowners.org/awards/soil-land-award

20 - 21 January, Berlin, digital format

International Green Week Berlin 2021
www.gruenewoche.de

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ELO
European Landowners' Organization

CountrySide

is a publication of the ELO
in English and French

5 Euros

Publisher :

Thierry de l'Escaille

Chief editor :

Emmanuelle Mikosz

Text editor :

Sophy Smits van Oyen-Maltzoff

Johan NORDENFALK has passed away at the age of 86 and is deeply mourned by his wife Anna Lena and their four children and their families.

Johan showed an outstanding ability in the various positions he held in Swedish as well as international business and cultural life. A Swedish terrier both demanding and forward-thinking with genuine civil courage, great honesty and always with a twinkle in his eye. He was for a time State Secretary in the Ministry of Trade, went on to the Ministry of Industry and was appointed ambassador and was in principle head of all state-owned companies. Later, however, a split appeared between him and the Social Democratic government and so he became involved instead in the private sector to become known as the father of the "Over-the-Counter-Market".

He was also a driving force in the Swedish Trade Council. Johan was Chairman of the Royal Patriotic Society with a special commitment to the awarding of medals for Business Excellence. For these efforts he was awarded HM King's medal of the highest denomination. As a longstanding Chairman of the Swedish Landowners' Association, he has worked to protect property rights and initiated better tax rules with great dedication to enable family businesses such as estates to consolidate, grow, cope with generational replacement and improve and enhance the heritage of culture and the environment.

With his authority and strong commitment to these issues, he achieved his goals, thanks to the fact that he was well known, already in the past and respected in government offices. He was also Chairman of European Landowners' Organization and one of the founders of the Friends of the Countryside where he was

engaged in the same issues as Chairman. He was the central figure in passing Article 17, which protects property rights, included in the European Charter of Nice.

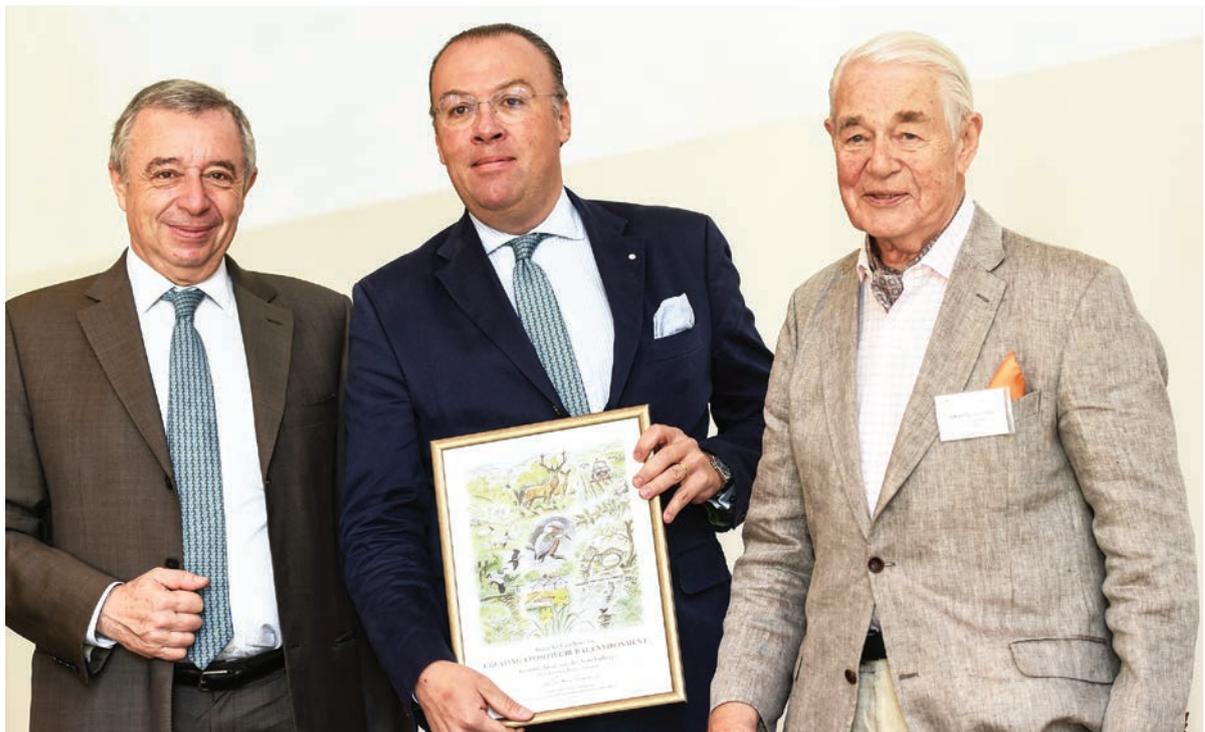
Having understood very early the importance of communication tools, he founded the Anders WALL Award together with Anders and the European Commission, recognizing outstanding achievements on privately managed Estates for the benefit of the society as a whole. By doing that he paved the way for many initiatives, and has been a source of inspirations for many of us.

But his heart lay with the family property Blekhem in Småland, Sweden, where he created a beautiful home for his family and where he could enjoy the wonderful surroundings with a well-managed forest and devote himself to his great passion, hunting.

On behalf of the Friends of the Countryside, Young Friends of the Countryside and European Landowners' Organization we would like to convey our deepest words of appreciation and gratitude for the lifetime achievements of Johan NORDENFALK. The legacy of his work and support will live on and inspire us always.

We would like to convey our most sincere words of comfort to his wife, Anna Lena, and his children and grandchildren. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

*Michael SALM zu SALM, FCS President
Marie-Christine SCHÖNBORN, YFCS President
Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, ELO Secretary General*



Anders WALL awarding ceremony in 2018, Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, Günther von der SCHULENBURG, Johan NORDENFALK