

# CountrySide

European Landowners' Organization

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## Wildlife Estates Plenary Session in Sweden





# Editorial

Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, *Secretary General*

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*The Commission is standing at a crossroads with its Green Deal, just as are other large entities as well. At the end of the Covid crisis and in the midst of the energy crisis, the Commission could not have found a more unfortunate time to initiate this Green Revolution.*

*Decarbonising our society is of course a good idea, but the cost of implementation coupled with a rather "stand alone" position at the global level creates a cost that is difficult to bear. We do recognise the opportunities and technological advances that this represents, but it would better if done sensitively and appropriately, and not irregardless of cost.*

*The "whatever it takes" approach has too often led to revolutions; that is all the more important when the general public does not understand the legitimacy of the proposed solutions and has a feeling that they are coming from insiders. To break away from this type of trap, we call for an impact assessment to be carried out on the latest drafts of the Nature Restoration Law, which will have a direct impact on agricultural and forestry activities; asking the question of what is going to happen to our food and fibre security should be an obligation for the Commission with no further discussion!*

*We fear that a large percentage of society will no longer have access to healthy food or forest products if this is not done and the plan is not adapted according to the results. One of the Commission's mistakes is to assume that stopping production in sensitive areas will generate more biodiversity. This is completely incorrect, as the opposite will happen instead...*

*This is part of the old communist view that there should be a new Yalta Agreement between areas where we can 'pollute' and protected areas where untamed nature will provide for our needs. We can already see that forest fires in Southern Europe are spreading mainly where wild bush has returned due to lack of management.*

*What is needed it to put into place is a very good management system everywhere and not to create islands that will ultimately exclude the countryside we love from proper management and from the market, and eventually put people out on the street.*



Stenhammar Gods, Sweden



Members of the Steering Committee, Ericsberg, Sweden

## Wildife Estates Plenary Session in Sweden

*This year's Wildlife Estates Plenary Session was held in Skokloster, Sweden on the 13-14 of September. Situated just 70 kilometres from Stockholm between the border of Stockholm and Uppsala, this estate boasts Skokloster Castle dating back to the 16th century, as well as a church that claims to be the oldest building in all of Sweden. Surely a perfect setting to hold the first face-to-face meeting after COVID.*

Jose Maria GOMEZ- ACEBO, ELO



Representatives from Sweden, France, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Poland, United Kingdom, Germany and Argentina met on September 13th during the Steering Committee to review and analyse this past year 2022, where it was seen that COVID resulted in a slight decrease in the number of estates evaluated and labelled. Even so, our national delegations have managed to continue assessing the project which has never come to a standstill. Another important point that was discussed was the adaptation of the methodology to new ways of working and optimisation both for the future labellers as well as for the evaluators. New farms in Chile (Fundo Don Cristobal) and Argentina (La Chilca and El Tobar) were presented, increasing the number of farms overseas, which is constantly growing.

The inclusion of new countries such as Hungary and the agreement with national governments to recognise the label have allowed the number of estates to continue to grow. The forecast is that by mid-2023,

the total of 500 estates and two million hectares will have been well over exceeded.

Wildlife Estates CEO Konstantin KOSTOPOULOS gave an in-depth analysis of the "Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions" (GAEC) a fundamental requirement in future EU subsidiary policies, supported by statistics provided by the label owners themselves from more than 10 countries. The results were very positive, showing that most of the owners already have them in place on their estates, and others are in the process of modifying their habits to comply with them.

That same evening a dinner was held in the company of the von ESSEN family, owners of Skokloster Castle who enlightened us on the history of the castle, open for visits to the general public.

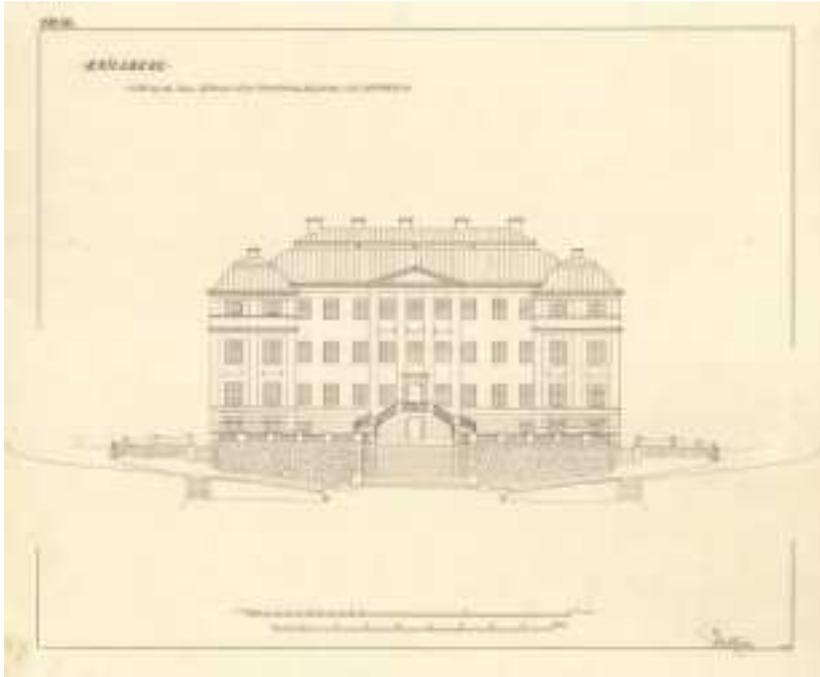
The WE delegates also had the opportunity to discover two additional labelled estates: Stenhammar Gods and Ericsberg.

### Stenhammar Gods (SE.WE3.2020)

A 2400 hectare estate located in the Södermanland region, is a donation that allows King Carl XVI Gustaf to manage it in his lifetime. This versatile estate encompasses activities such as agriculture, animal husbandry, hunting, renewable energies and is available for cultural and scientific visits.

#### Brief history

The first named owner of Slädhammar was Agmund ULFSSON. Other early owners include names such as DJURHUFVUD, GEET, ARP and Sheringsdotter Johan ROSENHANE. It was the latter owner who in 1658 started building the current castle, and changed its name to Stenhammar. During the 16th and 18th centuries Stenhammar was owned by the RIBBING and FALKENBERG families. In 1809 Stenhammar was sold to a wholesaler Anders PETERSON, who is said to have developed agriculture and build roads on the estate.



Anders' daughter, Maria Charlotte inherited Stenhammar and married Robert VON KRAEMER, governor of Uppsala County. Their son, Anders Robert VON KRAEMER, inherited the castle. In 1892 he became Court Marshal and made efforts to improve the estate. He cultivated new crops, built roads, dug ditches and, among other things, had the beautiful oak hills around the castle laid out. As A. R. VON KRAEMER and his wife Henriette did not leave any children, they decided to bequeath Stenhammar to the Swedish state under certain conditions.

290 cows and 10 breeding bulls: of these, approximately 80 cows are purebred Simmental and approximately 40 Red Angus cows, where approximately 20 yearling bulls and a number of pregnant females to farm herds are sold. The remaining dams are included in a cross-breeding program where the goal is to produce the optimal dam for the production of di-calves via planned breeding.

### Ericssberg (SE.WE23.2018)

Is an estate of 15 700 hectares located in the Södermanland region, and managed by the BONDE Family. As the third largest pri-

vate estate in Sweden, it has always been well managed and worked for biodiversity and a sustainable use of the countryside. All forests are PEFC certified. The castle is a historical monument and is protected by Swedish law. The estate has its own museum and café.

#### Brief history:

Ericssbergs Castle is one of the best preserved baroque castles in Sweden and today it is the eighth generation of farmers who live there while running the farm. The business consists of forestry, agriculture, wildlife management, property management, new constructions, visitor activities and an online shop.

Ericssberg Baroque Park dates from the late 17th century. A contemporary description of the park reads: "It is a beautiful garden decorated with many herbs and rare fruits". No drawing of this park has survived today, but the copper engraving by Erik DAHLBERG may give an idea of how the park was intended to be laid out.

During the 18th century, the park deteriorated and became more of a fruit orchard. In the mid-19th century it was decided to create a beautiful ornamental park in front of the castle. Many parts of these gardens can still be seen today. Even the well-known landscape gardener Edward GLAESSEL has influenced the park when, at the beginning of the 20th century, he made a proposal to redesign the park, which in some parts was carried out in the Baroque park.

#### Agriculture and animal farming

The animal production consists of approx.

#### Visit to the King of Sweden

On the 15th of September His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden received the "Wildlife Estates" delegation at the Royal Palace in Stockholm on the day of His Majesty's 49<sup>th</sup> Coronation anniversary. The King received in person from the hand of the WE Swedish representative, Gustav HAGEMANN, the WE diploma for the Stenhammar Gods estate. The delegation discussed with the King the practices carried out on His Majesty's estate and the evolution throughout recent years, as well as activities planned for the near future.



© Henrik CARLDV, Royal Court of Sweden

Åke BARKLUND, Konstantin KOSTOPOULOS, Emmanuelle MIKOSZ, His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, Gustav HAGEMANN, Jose Maria GOMEZ- ACEBO

*The WE Secretariat would like to thank the Swedish National delegation and all our hosts for their wonderful hospitality and for opening the doors of their estates.*

**For more information:**  
[www.wildlife-estates.eu](http://www.wildlife-estates.eu)

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## A Tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

The Earl of Carnarvon

*"I have always had the utmost respect for Her Majesty, whose long life of service and duty to the people of the UK and Commonwealth has been recognised all over the world.*

*My father was a personal friend of the Queen, and they shared the same passion for the countryside and breeding and racing of thoroughbred horses. The Queen had an encyclopedic memory for thoroughbred bloodlines and understood the character of a horse very well. I have happy memories as a boy of Her Majesty coming to stay with my father at Highclere and visiting the mares and foals both at her stud by Kingsclere and on the estate.*

*The Queen had a natural affinity with dogs and horses, and it was obvious to all around her that she had a passion for the countryside and farming, and a real connection with people working on the land.*

*She once gave my father a top-class working cocker spaniel called Mango, who was quite outstanding at picking up birds and had circus-like ability to be controlled from a distance. I still remember one of the days when Her Majesty had her dogs out picking up, and Mango joined in as well. It showed the Queen in a relaxed mode away from the cares of state, doing what she liked best of a beautiful afternoon in the autumn.*

*I have special memories of visits to the Queen and Prince Philip at Balmoral, Sandringham and Windsor Castle. The Queen was never more at home than when she was walking on the hills and moors by Balmoral or the big sky country of Sandringham. At*

*Windsor, she kindly allowed me to accompany her on a riding trip and lent me the beautiful horse ridden by President REAGAN only a short time before at a state visit.*

*The extraordinary thing about the Queen was her ability to put people at ease and include them in conversation, whatever their background and age. She always drew people into a room and made them feel at home by including them in the gathering and asking about their life and interests. You always had to know your subject when talking to the Queen or Prince Philip, but I*

*always felt that, above all, the Queen valued the contribution made by the rural community to life in Britain, and she appreciated the effort that went into producing quality food from the best bloodlines of sheep, cattle and well-cultivated crops.*

*I count myself very lucky to have got to know this very special lady quite well since my youth, and her passing defines the end of an era which has been subject to so much change. Despite all the changes in attitudes and technology, the Queen never changed her view of duty and Christian faith".*

### Sarah HENDRY, CLA Director General

Her Majesty the Queen was our living embodiment of graciousness. For 70 years, she showed us what it meant on a daily basis. Serene and unruffled on great occasions; summoning just the right words to reassure or capture the mood at important times in the nation's life; radiating warmth and a keen interest towards the many thousands of people she met; and yet, though always the center of attention wherever she went, she came across as an essentially modest person, called upon to fill an extraordinary role.

*"I had the immense privilege of receiving my CBE from Her Majesty at the palace in 2006. Like everyone else, I was gripped with anxiety about being required to curtsy and walk backwards in heels on a deep pile carpet after the investiture. My strongest impressions of the occasion are of her piercing but friendly gaze as she asked me intelligent questions about how I had managed to get to Americans to agree to the outcome of the Montreal climate change conference and the extraordinary intimacy of the Queen fastening the medal to my lapel. She did it many times to many people, but for each of us, the Queen made it a uniquely special moment."*

*The Editorial team would like to thank you the Earl of Carnarvon and the CLA for the possibility to reprint this article published in the October edition of the "Land and Business Magazine". For more information: [www.cla.org.uk/about-cla/land-business-magazine](http://www.cla.org.uk/about-cla/land-business-magazine)*

# What future for agriculture and farmers - an ELO study tour in Ireland

*Did we see one future for farming and food production, when we met Gabriel HOEY and Kevin CAHILL in a cattle shed, on a windy industrial estate under the flight-path of Dublin Airport? The inspiring HOEY brothers, realising their family farm could not support two incomes, teamed up with their neighbours in 1997 to supply vegetables to Tesco. They now work some 7,000 acres, have a major share of the Irish prepared-foods market, and are key partners with beef processor ABP.*

Jack TENISON, Friends of the Countryside (FCS)



Did we see one future for farming and food production, when we met Gabriel HOEY and Kevin CAHILL in a cattle shed, on a windy industrial estate under the flight-path of Dublin Airport? The inspiring HOEY brothers, realising their family farm could not support two incomes, teamed up with their neighbours in 1997 to supply vegetables to Tesco. They now work some 7,000 acres, have a major share of the Irish prepared-foods market, and are key partners with beef processor ABP.

The day before, we met the thoughtful Ronnie WILSON of Monaghan Mushrooms. He exports two tonnes a week to England, employs 3,000 people, and has branched into nutritionally-enhanced powders, pig feed, substrate, and meat-free food texturant from 15 sites across the world. All were committed to sustainability, traceability, technology, and customer care, and shared a concern about the low margins of a cheap-food imperative. But we perhaps also glimpsed one reality behind the idealistic green mantra: a landscape rewilded for nature conservation perhaps also means food production must be either exported or, to compete, processed on industrial scales and locations.

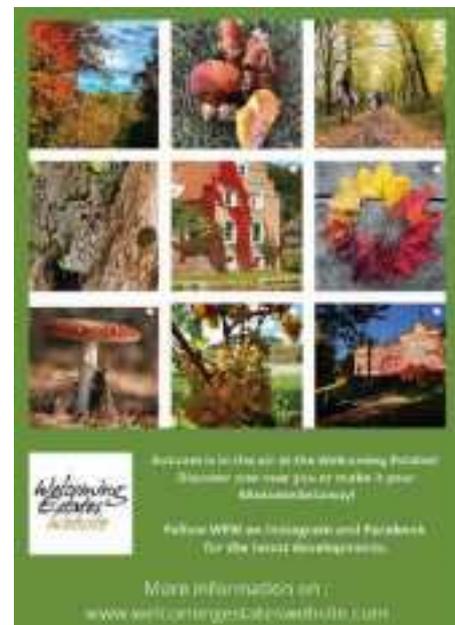
Another angle was the private research station at Dowth, World Heritage Site and home to 6,000 years of farming. Professor Alice STANTON discussed the nutritional benefits of animal-sourced foods, and questioned the reliability of much-quoted plant-based dietary studies. Professor John GILLILAND described his long-term

programme to measure soil and grass fertility, water quality and carbon sequestration. At magical riverside Rathkenny, the self-deprecating "hobby farmer" Frank MCGOVERN, former chief vet to Saudi King Abdullah, demonstrated the integrity and intelligence which has transformed the genetics and productivity of this organic beef and sheep farm.

With the MADDEN family, tenth generation at Hilton Park, one field from Northern Ireland, we learned the hard realities of border living, the Troubles, and the challenge to preserve a legacy on insufficient capital. The big estates of Ireland were confiscated 120 years ago, leaving a patchwork of small farms, many unsustainable, with doubtful environmental compliance, and reliant on the continuing subsidies demanded by a strident farming union. The CAP transformed this border region. When Ireland joined the EU in 1973, the mixed, self-sufficient, impoverished farms switched to grass monoculture, and prosperity came from the export of beef cattle and dairy products. Larry GOODMAN's ABP, still privately-owned, was a key player in this transformation. Seamus MCMAHON decided differently; he did not follow his neighbours into the fashionable spiral of intensification, but limited his milkherd to 120 cows, and exports his delicious Brehon Brewery craft beers to the US and mainland Europe.

Ellen COYLE enthralled us with the lucrative sale of Irish horses to England for hunting, and the joys and tumbles of that

addictive sport. We noted the Irish forestry model of plant and clear-fell. The soft weather allows a 30-year rotation for Sitka spruce, a yield class of 26 (m<sup>3</sup>/ha/yr), and an IRR of 8%. Ireland insists it will carbon-chase its current 11% forest cover closer to the EU average of 39%, with neither plan nor likelihood that will achieve this. Forestry is contentious: a farming tradition fights the loss of agricultural land, and a green-lobby demands native trees only, regardless of viability. What if instead Ireland were to pay Sweden and Finland to reduce their own forests, thereby lowering the coveted EU average, and focus on what it does best: grass-grown red meat? We saw enough to believe that a more thoughtful management of water, stock, soil, and fodder could deliver a sustainable and quality product. Will the Irish government have the courage to deliver this, or the consumer the willingness to pay for it? The new Nature Restoration Law proposes binding restoration targets which aim at putting in place time-bound obligations for ecosystem restoration together with an overarching EU target. The aim is to cover at least 20% of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030 with nature restoration measures, and eventually extend these to



# Delivering the Nature Restoration Law for rural stakeholders and biodiversity

*The Intergroup « Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside » held a timely online event on 27 September 2022 entitled “Delivering the Nature Restoration Law for rural stakeholders and biodiversity”. Why timely? Because the European Commission released the proposal in June 2022 and the text is reaching now the European Parliament and European Council. The debates promise to be rich and lively as did the meeting discussions that took place under the guidance of the moderator Jurgen TACK, ELO.*



Delphine DUPEUX, ELO

The new Nature Restoration Law proposes binding restoration targets which aim at putting in place time-bound obligations for ecosystem restoration together with an overarching EU target. The aim is to cover at least 20% of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030 with nature restoration measures, and eventually extend these to all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050. While a vast majority of stakeholders agree on the environmental objective to preserve European ecosystems, we can discuss how to implement it effectively and sustainably. Restoration measures will be interlinked with conservation actions and climate change mitigation initiatives. For those in the field, all of these

elements will have a major impact on their management methods and the trade-offs to be made.

The event was chaired by MEP Álvaro AMARO (Portugal, EPP), President of the Intergroup, with introductory remarks by MEP Maria NOICHL (Germany), MEP Christine SCHNEIDER (Germany, EPP), and MEP Alexandr VONDRA (Czechia, ECR). While there were strong statements in favor of the proposed legislation with the idea that “*the new law is the best insurance policy for climate adaptation and thus also to preserve long-term food security in Europe*”, some MEPs were critical of the fact that the proposal was too single-sided and directed against agriculture and that an adequate funding for the proposed measures at a time when dramatically rising energy prices and inflation are having a significant impact on our societies, was lacking.

The rural community was mentioned as an essential player in the debate. The Intergroup President's statement focused on the importance of not missing a ‘good start’ for this legislation and of involving from the beginning the countryside community such as hunters, farmers, land managers, environmental groups, anglers and other interested stakeholders (like municipalities) in the planning process.

Stefan LEINER, European Commission stated that the proposal breaks new ground. It is the first EU-wide, comprehensive restoration law of its kind. By restoring healthy and biodiverse ecosystems, the law will help ensure the sustainable economic activity of those who directly depend on such healthy ecosystems for their livelihoods: farmers, foresters and fishers. Annegret LARSEN, Wageningen University & EGU Biodiversity Task Force added that as geoscientists, we want restoration projects to focus on the recreation of ecosystem functions and establish

win-win situations for biodiversity, climate protection, climate mitigation, and people.

Dr Heidi KRÜGER, from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland explained that Landowners and hunters are key operators in mainstreaming biodiversity on wetlands. Engaging local communities in habitat management promotes cost-efficient restoration and supports long-lasting action on multiple levels. Ariel BRUNNER, from Birdlife Europe, pointed out that farmers, foresters, land owners and fishers are the most exposed to the ravages of climate change and ecosystem collapse. They have the most to gain from a serious restoration push.

Max FREIHERR VON ELVERFELDT, President Familienbetriebe Land und Forst argued that the EU chooses the wrong approach to achieve the right goals: Instead of the strict protection of forests and other areas, we need to strengthen sustainable management methods in order to promote biodiversity and climate protection.

While a vast majority of stakeholders agreed on the environmental objective to preserve European ecosystems, the discussions revealed that they are still questions on how to implement this goal effectively and sustainably. Restoration measures will be interlinked with conservation actions and climate change mitigation initiatives. For those in the field, all of these elements will have a major impact on their management methods and the trade-offs to be made.

*Both the recording and relevant information are available on the Intergroup website: [www.biodiversityhuntingcountryside.eu](http://www.biodiversityhuntingcountryside.eu)*

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## Expectations towards COP27 and why it matters

Michael SAYER, ELO Special Adviser

The year 2022 has brought another string of climate-related disasters. The long, hot, dry summer broke further temperature records across Europe, and in the UK the thermometer nudged 40 degrees. The river Po fell to a record low, as did the Loire, and (on their much smaller scale) the headwaters of the Thames also ran dry. Shipping on the Rhine was restricted. Some reservoirs dropped to half their capacity. Alpine glaciers continued their retreat, and there were dead salmon in the river Wye. There were extensive forest fires in the Landes de Gascogne, as well as in Iberia, Czechia and Sachsen-Anhalt, and the EU announced that it was buying fire-fighting planes. In the Amazon, an area the size of New York City was deforested in six months.

So it is not surprising that little progress has been made with converting the pledges made in Glasgow last year, whether on deforestation or reducing methane emissions, into reality. In the UK, a number of post-JOHNSON candidates for Tory leader seemed to compete to soften climate targets until Alok SHARMA, still the COP Chairman, threatened to resign. The UN called for more ambitious plans, but the long-awaited global stocktake will only be reported in time for COP28 next year, to be held in the UAE.

The world is still headed for +2.5 degrees of warming compared with the Paris target of +1.5. However, the crisis in Ukraine has at least led to a major increase in investment in renewable energy. This on current trends, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA) would now reach \$2 trillion a year by 2030, and implies that emissions would actually peak in 2025. However, the annual investment would need to reach \$4 trillion by 2030 in order to reach Net Zero by 2050.

Most governments include very little detail in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Indeed, in the UK, the High Court granted an order against the government to explain in detail how Net Zero would be met. One of the countries which gave most detail in this respect, almost entirely from land-use policies (and therefore very interesting from the ELO's perspective) was Brazil, but that was in its pre-Bolsonaro days, and it has now regressed. The point is being made with increasing urgency that planting new trees cannot compensate for the destruction of mature forest. The principle is obvious, but it applies most clearly in the developing world. Transferring the issue simplistically to a European context has generated a debate on the role of sustainable management, silvicultural systems (monocultures or mixed), age structures, forest inventories and the use

of drones which still has some way to run.

COP27 has been expected, ahead of next year's stocktake, to address issues of loss and damage. At the macro-level, much of this concerns the developing world and who will pay for climate policy. At least, after much opposition, it is on the agenda. But at local level, the issues are equally pressing. The recent summer has highlighted the risks to forests and the urgent need to build in firebreaks, fire-fighting capacity, and greater resilience. Here a shift away from monocultures is overdue, as anyone watching the devastation in south-west France can see. But on-farm water storage also needs development. Not only the geographical range of crops but their seasonality is changing. And water conservation will also be required to maintain minimum river flows. Sea-level rise is another critical issue. The 'smarter' coastal defence schemes which are engineered to work with geomorphological processes can be seen mostly off tourist resorts: in the countryside, there is minimal investment. Coastal zones are increasingly vulnerable to the mean sea-level rise likely as the Greenland and Antarctic ice-sheets melt, and the concept of dyke rings with a legal standard of defence, as in the Netherlands, remains highly unusual.

# New Global Collaboration Platform for Farm Policy and Innovation Launched

Four leading independent agricultural organizations from Australia, Canada, the European Union, and United States have formed in October a collaborative initiative known as the Global Forum on Farm Policy and Innovation (GFFPI) to increase the sustainability of agriculture across the world.



The purpose of the collaboration is to use existing evidence and emerging research to inform dialogue that can unlock new thinking and ideas. In doing so, the organizations believe that they can increase knowledge and understanding of key gaps and opportunities to deliver better outcomes for more sustainable agriculture around the world.

The four organizations have been working together informally for the past year to better understand key issues and seek areas of alignment for collaboration. Leaders from the four organizations recently convened in Oak Brook, Illinois, at Farm Foundation's offices for the purpose of taking this further step in formalizing the collaboration.

In addition to aligning on the purpose statement, GFFPI envisions a set of shared activities for the coming year. These include collaborating on shared public dialogue on trade and sustainability in 2022-2023. The organizations will look for ways to engage additional global voices and to connect their individual organizational activities associated with one of the key global drivers of sustainable agriculture.

Going forward, the partners will also seek to work with similar like-minded organizations around the world.

Commenting on today's announcement, Farm Foundation, Australian Farm Institute, Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute, and Forum for the Future of Agriculture said:

*"We know that key differences persist in approaches to sustainability across countries and that this type of collaborative initiative can help increase the understanding of gaps and opportunities. We value collaborating with these independent organizations to help lead such important debates to enable solutions."* Shari ROGGE-FIDLER, CEO of Farm Foundation.

*"We need to build a food and agriculture*

*system that is more resilient and sustainable and which realizes its potential as a climate solution. The Forum has long recognized that this cannot be done in isolation and today's announcement is fully aligned with its objective of working with like-minded organizations around the world. From the pressure on environmental, as well as food, security and the climate crisis, the urgency to bring forward new thinking, ideas, and solutions has never been greater. This initiative will enable us to contribute with greater impact to that goal."* Janez POTOČNIK, Chairman, Forum for the Future of Agriculture.

"Regardless of their size, structure or location, Australian farmers now work in an interdependent, world-wide system. Understanding global policy trends and how they influence our trading and operating environments has never been more important. The GFFPI will further enhance the AFI's ability to bring that global lens into our policy work, and provides a unique forum through which our organizations can pursue policy and innovation which

helps build sustainable farm businesses around the world." Richard HEATH, Executive Director, Australian Farm Institute.

"Around the world agriculture must play a significant role in meeting critical economic, environmental, and food security goals. These are global challenges that require local solutions. While the local solutions will be different, there will be common threads, including the need for profitability, productivity, and growth. This is a significant opportunity to work together to advance policies that position agriculture as a solution-provider for these critical challenges." Tyler MCCANN, Managing Director, Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute.

For more information:  
[www.forumforagriculture.com](http://www.forumforagriculture.com)

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## Jane GOODALL comes to Brussels to share her message of hope

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December Jane GOODALL will give a public lecture in Brussels: “**An Evening of Hope**”. She will talk about her reasons for hope that will help us to face the challenges of the future of our planet. Jane rose to fame with her groundbreaking research on chimpanzee behaviour in Gombe in Tanzania. She was appointed there in 1960 after meeting anthropologist Dr Louis LEAKEY, who had noticed her love for nature and sharp observation skills. Jane once said that in those days specialists believed animals did not experience emotions like humans. Fortunately, she was unaware of that, not having had any formal training and was not exposed to beliefs that humanity was far removed from the animal world. In Gombe she experienced a close connection with all living beings and realised that humans are far more like chimps than was thought. One remarkable discovery was that chimps use tools.

Her greatest contribution came later when she switched from research to conservation and creating awareness. To protect chimpanzees and their habitat, Jane left Gombe and in 1977 founded the Jane GOODALL Institute which led to her travelling around the world. Today, aged 88, she is as determined as ever to sow the seeds of conservation. In the decades of travelling, she has impacted the lives of millions of people. Through her actions, she strives to make the world a better place for animals, nature, and humanity. Let us welcome her to Brussels and continue her work by sending ripples of hope across our country. Jane's visit is organized by the **Jane GOODALL Institute Belgium**, led by executive director Anouska PLASMEIJER, and by **Humanistisch Verbond** en **Forest Fwd**. The public lecture will be held on 2 December 2022 at the well-known Square convention center in Brussels from 19:30 until 21:30. Tickets can be purchased on the website: [www.janegoodall.be/public-lecture-janegoodall-brussels](http://www.janegoodall.be/public-lecture-janegoodall-brussels)

An exclusive Gala dinner and charity auction will take place on 3 December 2022 in the beautiful setting of Martin's Chateau du Lac in Genval. There will be a cocktail reception at 18:30 followed by a vegan three-course dinner at 20:00. Tickets can be purchased on our website: [www.janegoodall.be/gala-evening-2022](http://www.janegoodall.be/gala-evening-2022)

## October 16 – World Food Day - New Gastronomy of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

On the occasion World Food Day, ELO would like to share one of the special initiatives promoted by the members of the *Academia Iberoamericana de Gastronomía (AIBG)*. The presidents of the fourteen gastronomy academies of the different Ibero-American countries that include Spain and Portugal, wanted to underline that, since its origins more than ten years ago, they have been committed to promoting the *New Gastronomy of the 21st Century*.

In the *New Gastronomy* special importance is given to the four “S’s” (in Spanish): Saludable, Solidaria, Sostenible y Satisfactoria (in English: Health, Solidarity, Sustainability and Satisfaction). In turn, it covers the four links in the food chain: production, industry, distribution and trade, and finally, consumption in the hotel and catering industry.

For more information: [www.ibergastronom.com](http://www.ibergastronom.com)



# The Life « European Networks » project for landowners and conservationists

Marie ORBAN & Anne-Sophie MUELLER, ELO

Do you enjoy spending time in Nature?

Are you interested in learning about and helping to protect nature's preserved areas?

Nature conservation often relies on volunteers and citizen scientists for support. ENPLC project partners are hosting Workcamps, Bioblitzes and other volunteering events on private land.

You are most welcome to join. This is the moment for landowners and conservationists to exchange and share knowledge.

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



Meet our ambassadors, they are Private Land Conservation Superheroes!



**Ambassador #5 - Barbora KUKRECHTOVÁ, the butterfly kingdom of Radiměř in Czech Republic**

Barbora's home, the butterfly kingdom of Radiměř, is a project initiated by ČSOP Arion. By conservation grazing and mowing, they protect this corner of paradise and its biodiversity. They work hard to save the rare Large Blue, one of the rarest butterflies in Europe.



**Ambassador #6 - Jordi PIETX, Land Stewardship Expert, Spain**

Jordi has been a Private Land Conservation Ambassador his entire career. Inspired by his experience with land stewardship and private conservation initiatives in the US, he pioneered the concept in Catalonia. He is now active at the European level to boost this powerful practice.



**Ambassador #7 - Lisa KOPSIEKER, scientist researching policy opportunities for nature conservation**

Lisa learned that even in existing policies, there are considerable opportunities to support nature conservation that could be more effectively used.

As a German citizen who grew up in East Africa and studied conservation science in the UK, she has a broader perspective on Europe's conservation sector and policies.



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



Get inspired and read their stories on **ENPLC website**.

-  [www.enplc.eu](http://www.enplc.eu)
-  @LIFE\_ENPLC
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# The Bruine Kriekpeer of Klerken awarded the Belgian Tree of the Year 2022

*With a remarkable 1565 votes, the Bruine Kriekpeer of Klerken (Brown Cherry Pear) located in West Flanders won the Belgian Baillet Latour Tree of the Year 2022. It was closely followed by the Zomereik of Lanaken, in the province of Limburg which received 1159 votes, and the Moerascipres of Ename, in the province of East Flanders for which 1118 people voted. For this year's edition, many exceptional trees were again submitted from all over Flanders and Brussels, but it was the Bruine Kriekpeer with its remarkable story that convinced both the jury and the public.*

Anna de BOECK, ELO



## Baillet Latour Tree of the Year

The 'Baillet Latour Tree of the Year' is a competition that seeks out the most outstanding trees annually. This year, trees from the Flemish provinces and Brussels could participate; in 2023, Walloon trees have a chance to win the title again. Trees from the Brussels Capital Region can participate every year. After all the nominations are received, one laureate per province is chosen by the jury. A public vote then determines which tree is awarded the title 'Baillet Latour Tree of the Year'. It is important to note that this competition is not about the biggest, the oldest or even the most beautiful tree, but about a tree that connects the community with each other and with nature which is certainly

how the Bruine Kriekpeer of Klerken was judged the winner.

The competition helps raise public awareness about remarkable trees. It also draws attention to the need to care for and maintain trees properly. The Tree of the Year is organised by SBNL-VL (Stichting Behoud Natuur en Leefmilieu Vlaanderen), financially supported by the Baillet Latour Fund, and in cooperation with ANB, BOS+, ELO, APB, Landelijk Vlaanderen and the Bosgroepen.

## The Bruine Kriekpeer of Klerken

The story of the Bruine Kriekpeer is closely linked to the village where it stands, Klerken. In this West-Flemish village, the tree was the occasion for an annual pear procession, the 'Perelaarommegang' in which pears were donated to visitors. Today, there is still a legacy of this custom, as there is a street called: Perelaarommegang, after the procession. Next summer, on August 6, after more than 20 years, the Perelaarommegang will be organised again, exactly as before, with giants, farm horses, marching bands and people dressed as pears.

The tree will now bear the honourable title of 'Belgian tree of the year 2022' and will participate in the European Tree of the Year competition in 2023 together with 15 other European countries. This initiative is organised at the European level by the Environmental Partnership Association in cooperation with the European Landowners' Organization. Moreover, the Bruine Kriekpeer of Klerken will receive a cash prize of 2,500 euros to spend on care and possible redevelopment of its nearby surroundings. Together with the submitters of the tree, the non-profit organisation Perenstoet Klerken, and the village, ways are being sought to raise awareness of this tree and allow passers-by to fully enjoy this unique piece of nature.

With the prize money, the non-profit organisation Perenstoet Klerken plans to place a sign by the tree with an explanation and carry out maintenance work on the tree so that it can continue to cherish Klerken's cultural identity for a long time to come.

**For more information:**  
[www.treeoftheyear.org](http://www.treeoftheyear.org)



## A willow-based biorefinery model

Martin FOX, ELO

On October 17th and 18th, ELO hosted a project meeting for the BioWILL project in Brussels, which is an Interreg NWE-funded project focusing on integrated "Zero Waste" biorefinery utilising all fractions of willow feedstock for the production of high to medium-based bio-chemicals/materials, renewable energy in the form of biomethane production and natural fertilisers. The project brings together multiple partners varying from academic institutions to industry representatives from all over northwestern Europe (Belgium, France, the United Kingdom, and Ireland). The meeting took place at the Wales House offices in Brussels, more specifically at the Wales Higher Education - Brussels office (WHEB), thanks to our connection with Bangor University from North Wales, who is a project partner of the BioWILL project and plays a key role in the processing of willows.

This meeting gave partners ample time to update each other on their respective work packages and how they are contributing to the circular production chain that the project is attempting to set in place, elaborating on key milestones that have been achieved since the last project meeting in Limerick, Ireland, last July. Here, preliminary products (medical cream and initial versions of reusable packaging) of the willow circular chain were showcased and will be presented publicly once all the administrative aspects have been taken care of. ELO leads on the dissemination and communication work package, and focused on updating the project partners about their requirements to contribute to communication and dissemination tasks as well as highlighting a key difference for such activities: communicating and disseminating scientific research involves explanations of the work that has already been done and is being done, and not shaping the scientific work on how it should be disseminated or communicated on.

As a whole, BioWILL will deliver a biorefinery model for northwest Europe using willow, by producing high-value salicylates from willow bark for medical applications. The bark residue and bark-free willow pulp will be converted into safe food-quality packaging material to replace fossil-derived plastics. The end-of-life packaging will be hydrolysed and used as a feedstock in an innovative bio-energy anaerobic digestion system producing biogas suitable for grid injection. Technology demonstrations will validate how technology integration can increase efficiency, qualifying as "best available practice". Intensive market, regulatory, financial, technical & environmental analysis will produce a "toolkit" (LCAs, business models, etc) for dissemination to all market actors via an extensive communications programme.

 [www.nweurope.eu/projects/project-search/biowill/#tab-1](http://www.nweurope.eu/projects/project-search/biowill/#tab-1)  
 BioWILL\_NWE



Infrastructure and construction sites of the project financed by Interreg NWE.

## EUWAY working meeting - project on raising awareness of the danger of water shortage and the risks of pollution

Daniel MONTELEONE & Micaela COSGROVE, ELO



The EUWAY Project held its 2nd transnational meeting in the agricultural city of Jaen, Spain, on September 26th and 27th, 2022, though some partners attended virtually due to travel restrictions in their countries. EUWAY is a project coordinated by ELO that focuses on raising awareness about the danger of water shortage and the risks of pollution, training allowing to optimise the use and quality of water resources, and an exchange of examples related to more efficient and less polluting farming techniques.

The meeting began with a review of the Summary Guide that is being developed. This guide will soon be published on the EUWAY website so that readers can better understand the current situation in the various countries involved in the project across Europe. This Summary guide was a summation of 5 National Reports that gave perspectives on water usage in Ireland, Italy, Spain, Germany, and Slovenia. The project partners then discussed Case Studies, which will be held in 5 EU Member States. By speaking with young farmers in each of the 5 countries, EUWAY will be able to collect best practices that will be used in the upcoming training modules. The transnational meeting concluded with a tour of the olive tree fields in Jaen, amongst the largest in all of Europe.

If you are a young farmer or landowner in one of the aforementioned countries and would like to participate in this experience, please contact Daniel MONTELEONE, ELO Project Coordinator for EUWAY, at [Daniel.Montealeone@elo.org](mailto:Daniel.Montealeone@elo.org).

If you are a young farmer or landowner in one of the aforementioned countries and would like to participate in this experience, please contact Daniel MONTELEONE, ELO Project Coordinator for EUWAY, at [Daniel.Montealeone@elo.org](mailto:Daniel.Montealeone@elo.org).

 <https://euway-erasmus.eu/>

 @EUWAYProject

 EUWAY

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# Kick-off meeting of the Horizon Europe “PathFinder” project

*On November 13th and 14th in Ås, Norway, on the southern side of Oslo, the PathFinder project hosted its kick-off meeting to elaborate on the start of the project and the direction it should take. Partners from 22 organisations across the continent came together for the PathFinder project - Towards an Integrated Consistent European LULUCF (Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry) Monitoring and Policy Pathway Assessment Framework.*

Martin FOX, ELO



portant role in the co-designing of forest pathways through workshops that aim to bring a wide range of stakeholders together (scientists, political, societal, and economic actors) linked to the forestry sector. Doing so will lead to a co-design of policies that foster desired forestry management pathways. These workshops will empower forestry stakeholders with the necessary tools and knowledge to shape a more sustainable European forestry sector.

The project is scheduled to last 4 years, until the end of 2026.

 EuPathfinder



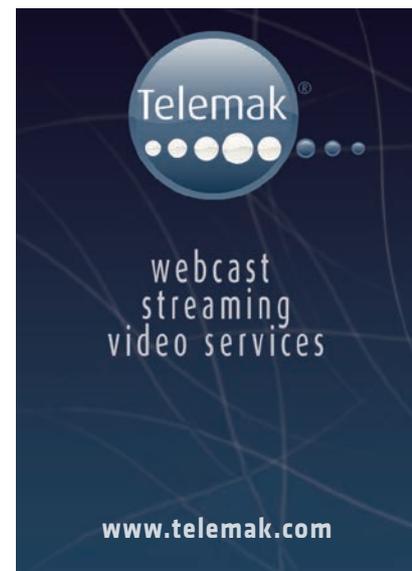
The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Union Horizon Europe (HORIZON) Research & Innovation programme under the Grant Agreement no. 101056907

The meeting began with the coordinating organisation NIBIO (Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research) outlining the overarching objectives of the project, their roles and responsibilities, as well as logistical aspects of working on an European project. Following this, all 5 work package leaders presented their respective work packages: field data collection, a mapping and estimation platform, management scenarios, policy, and communication, dissemination, exploitation (of which ELO leads). Afterwards, all 22 participating organisations took part in workshops to develop synergies across the work packages. This was to foster, after so long of doing it virtually for a large amount of projects over the past 2 years, in-person synergies amongst partners and work packages with the goal of elaborating more clearly on task distribution and allocation, as well as creating a clear vision of how tasks contribute to each other.

Across the PathFinder project, ELO leads the communication, dissemination, and exploitation work package as well as heavily contributes to the policy work package.

Within the former, ELO takes charge in elaborating on outreach and communication activities within the project and for even after the project lifetime. From the get-go ELO representatives were able to present and emphasise on how the project partners could contribute to such strategies and how without a combined approach of ELO and the project partners working side by side, communication would not be as effective as needed to inspire positive sustainable change in the rural landscape. This way, ELO spearheads and heavily contributes to fostering positive uptake in the European forestry and land-use sectors through partaking in such important projects.

For the latter, ELO will be taking an im-



## CountrySide

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