



Editorial

In the light of the establishing of the new European institutions, ELO have sent to the new European deputies its Manifesto for the 2014-2019 period : Managing Europe's Land for the future.

In the Manifesto we call on the EU for policies that support prosperous and rural businesses and therefore make sure the following is possible:

Prosperous rural businesses by

1. Considering the specificities and needs of rural businesses in Europe
2. Providing rural areas with the necessary infrastructure and technology
3. Promoting a reliable Energy Framework
4. Minimizing risk and market uncertainty and ensuring that trade agreements do not undermine the agriculture of Europe

Innovation for food and fibre production by

1. Supporting improvements in productivity
2. Fostering innovation and new practices at the European level
3. Recognizing that sustainability doesn't specify any one method of production
4. Addressing the imbalances in the food supply chain and tackle food waste and food losses

Proactive action on the environment by

1. Promoting sustainable private stewardship - global challenges call for local solutions
2. Promoting delivery of public goods and services by landowners and managers
3. Supporting Europe's natural capital by encouraging landowners' efforts to protect and enhance natural resources and use them more efficiently
4. Being aware that most of the protected areas are managed and that the restrictions that landowners and managers often face need to be properly compensated

To respect those principles would be a tremendous step forward for the prosperity of the rural world.

Thierry de l'Escaille, *Secretary General*

XVII FCS General Assembly in Udine





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XVII FCS General Assembly in Udine

On the 6th June 2014, over 250 Friends gathered in the stunning Castello di Udine, Friuli, Italy, for the XVIIth Friends of the Countryside (FCS) General Assembly and Conference. They were welcomed by newly elected President, Michael Prinz ZU Salm-Salm, whose elegant opening words inspired confidence in the ongoing momentum and importance of the FCS.

As such the mood was set for the day, which commenced with the election of two new members of the FCS Board, Alessandro BELGIOJOSO of Italy, and Philip MERRICKS of the United Kingdom. Several new members of the Friends were also elected. The second half of the General Assembly was based on three presentations. The first two concerned the respective roles of the European Landowners' Organization (ELO) and the Young Friends of the Countryside (YFCS) in relation to the FCS. The third introduced a new initiative, called Welcoming Estates. Led by Seger VAN VOORST TOT VOORST, *Welcoming Estates* is a recently launched website, providing a common platform for FCS members to advertise their estates, either to other Friends, or the general public, at their own discretion.

Presenting the activities of the ELO, Secretary General Thierry DE L'ESCAILLE emphasized the importance of an open and functioning network between the FCS and the ELO. He explained the ELO's take on a number of policy areas, highlighting that much of the ELO's lobbying work is achieved through projects, in partnership with the Commission, Industry, or other private and public actors; awards, including the new Bee Award; and, conferences, notably the FFA. Francesco KINSKY DAL BORGO, Secretary General of the YFCS, also stressed the importance of a dynamic network between the FCS, YFCS, and the ELO.

After the General Assembly, the Friends and wider public were invited to partake in a topical and thoroughly engaging conference, which tackled the future of Europe and sustainable agriculture. Opening with a keynote speech, Lorenzo BINI SMAGHI, SNAM President and former member of the European Central Bank, as well as author of the book



CASTELLO DI BRAZZÀ



Special Edition FCS General Assembly

COUNTRY Side



M.SAYER, M.PRINZ ZU SALM-SALM, T.DE L'ESCAILLE, C.PIRZIO-BIROLI

'33 False Truths About Europe', identified Europe's two biggest problems. Firstly, the democratic deficit, and secondly, that the policies coming out of Europe in the past few years have been the wrong ones, overly focused on austerity. He noted the complexities between the principle of subsidiarity and the need to devolve powers to Europe. Sovereign leaders of Member States are only willing to concede to the latter in the context of a crisis. Moreover, he argued, crisis is an inevitable part of the cyclical economic process, which should precipitate decisions that make Europe stronger in the future. While expressing optimism in the long-run, BINI SMAGHI did not underplay the very real need to focus on getting out of the current crisis. These thoughts were echoed by former Agricul-

tural Commissioner Franz FISCHLER, who responded from the floor that an important aspect of this will be a new policy for the countryside, which ensures agriculture is not the loser of globalization.

Turning to an equally pressing issue, Clément CHENOST, Technical Director of the Moringa Fund, Compagnie Benjamin de ROTHSCHILD Conseil, presented the need to fund sustainable agricultural systems. Using the example of deforestation, he outlined the pressures of contemporary demand and supply arising from global population growth and the emergence of new consumption patterns, along with a lack of investment, and scarcity of land and natural resources. He made a convincing case that it is in an investor's interest to maximise innovative land-based solutions like agro-forestry, and to build resilient inter-dependent systems in the long run, better managing risk and diversifying revenues.

The importance of resilient agricultural systems in the face of climate change is undeniable. Yet, the central message of Corrado PIRZIO-BIROLI'S provocation speech on energy and climate change, was that Europe could aim to avoid further emissions in the first place by re-balancing its focus from energy supply to energy demand. This would be facilitated by a common European Energy Strategy, supportive legislation, better use of the Commission's fis-

cal instruments to innovate on the supply side, and the inclusion of agriculture in an emissions trading scheme, none of which will be easy to implement. The task is complicated by politics and the enhanced role of gas as a strategic global asset, following the shale boom in the US.



C. CHENOST

Responding, Patrice D'OUTREMONT cautioned against the politics behind the construction of subsidized renewable energy across Europe, while Ross MURRAY firmly expressed his belief in the strategic importance and opportunity that shale gas fracking presents for many EU countries. Moderator Matthew DEMPSEY rounded-up the discussion with the suggestion that the ELO and RISE teams could undertake a useful exercise in developing and presenting a coherent policy to the new Commissioner. The ANDERS WALL AWARD given as a way of tradition after the conference went to the Heihuyzen Estate, Belgium. The owner Christoph LENAERTS inherited his 400 Hectare Belgian Estate in 2007. Taking over from his father, he used his background as a technology entrepreneur to transform the heavily damaged forest he inherited into an actively managed and profitable estate, which can support long-term sustainability, in under 5 years. The social forestry we now see at Heihuyzen is the result of deep engagement with local community stakeholders, public administration, legislation, and public policy in the Flanders region. Today, the Estate supports a myriad of activities, from education, to hunting and sports, scouts camps and many others. Christophe LENAERTS' vision for the fu-



L. BINI SMAGHI



S. CANTELMO, J.NORDENFALK, P.BUCELLA, A. BARKLUND, T.DE L'ESCAILLE

ture is crystallised in his determination to share experiences, knowledge, best practices, and economic modelling with a new generation of stakeholders and land managers. It is his ambition to become a beacon for nature preservation in Belgium and beyond.

A diploma was also awarded on this occasion to Stefano CANTELMO, on behalf of the Fasola Bologna family for their 360° Green Revolution project at Castello Monte Vibiano Vecchio.

Continuing the theme of coherence, Pia BUCELLA, Director for Natural Capital, DG ENVIRONMENT, concluded the conference with the following words: "it is all about working together and not against one another." Whether pertaining to the future of Europe, or the energy and climate change paradox, ensuring that unity emerges from crisis was certainly the order of the day at the FCS General Assembly in Udine. The conference was followed by a typical Italian lunch on the Castle hill as a first introduction to the Friulan gastronomy and art of living.

In the afternoon, Corrado and Cecile PIRZIO-BIROLI invited the FCS to discover Castello di Brazzà. The estate is composed by fields, forest, a designed park with pounds

and several buildings being from the sixteenth-seventeenth century, including a 16th century landmark manor rebuilt in Palladian style in 1920 and different rural buildings.

The FCS had first the opportunity to assist to the DEUTZ FAHR new machineries demonstrations in the fields of Brazzà before walking to the mansion for some eclectic visits. The property includes *The Spazio Brazzà*, an Art and History Space: the *Pietro di Brazzà Savorgnan* museum cel-

ebrating the life of several explorers of that family; The *African Collection* of Detalmo PIRZIO-BIROLI, father of the actual owner; the art works of the deceased Czech painter *Stepan ZAVREL* who was a great engraver and had a distinguished career in film animation and illustration of children books.

After these visits guided by Corrado and Cécile PIRZIO-BIROLI and the Brazzà team, the FCS could have a tour in the park, a visit of a lace & patchworks exhibition and a visit of the renewed Villa before the arrival of the Alpini choirs which prestation was full of emotion and will remain in all the memories for a long time. Some of the FCS would have liked to listen the choirs till the end of the night but it was already time to move for Castello di Villalta for the Gala dinner.

Located at some 15 minutes from Brazzà, Villalta is surrounded by a fascinating landscape of hills and vineyards. The FCS discovered a wonderful castle which has not lost its original configuration of fortification, with a high tower, drawbridges and loopholes. The 300 guests were welcomed in the medieval courtyard by the owner Sergio GELMI di CAPPORIACO in an enchanting atmosphere reinforced by the presence of folkloric dancers and musicians. Followed the gala dinner where the guests of not less than 22 different European countries had some other nice surprises among some fascinating speeches and the presentation of the cantatrice Selma PASTERNAK.



CH.LENAERTS, J.NORDENFALK, P.BUCELLA, A. BARKLUND, T.DE L'ESCAILLE



Special Edition FCS General Assembly



Dear Friends,

Let me start (...) by thanking Corrado and Cecile PIRZIO-BIROLI, Giuseppe VISCONTI, and all the other Italian Friends for opening their doors, this marvellous castle and their arms to us. It is an honour and a privilege to be here in Italy, and I am sure that the coming days will act as proof to the greatness of this country and of those who manage its land. We all are very grateful for the major effort Max HARDEGG has put into the work for the Friends of the Countryside. He came up with some very interesting and complex ideas. Unfortunately his work at the DLG – the German Agricultural Society – left him overloaded. However certain he will be doing great work there. With great respect the board and all of us accepted his decision to resign from the Presidency. (...)

Thank you all very much and a special thank you to the Board for my being elected as new President of the FCS. (...)

Last year at our gala dinner, there was a discussion on the European questions and European parliament mainly under the aspect of costs. When I asked my neighbours at my table, what their fathers cared for 70 years ago, we found out, that all of our fathers in those days were trying to kill each other. So in contrast to this, isn't it wonderful, that we were able to vote a European parliament 14 days ago no matter what such a parliament costs? We have to take into account that one day of war would cost us much more than having a parliament for just one year. **Europe is all about peace, friendship and fruitful cultural and economic development.**

Europe and the European countryside is our responsibility! That is why I accepted the call for presidency and do feel very much honoured to be allowed to serve as a European, of German origin and nation. Which principal we should follow in our work? I would like to call it: "learning from the best". When we were at the bridge to the new century lobbied in Brussels very hard for the Charter of fundamental rights of the European Union –which in 2007 became part of the Treaty of Lisbon, it was our honorary President Johan NORDENFALK who showed us how to do it. He collected and compared all European constitutions to find the best wording for the protection of property rights. And he together with Karl GROTFELT, Giuseppe VISCONTI, Mark THOMASIN FOSTER and Thierry de L'ESCAILLE succeeded in bringing this protection as article 17 into the Charter.

Learning from the best, that is what we do here in Udine at our meetings. (...) I do hope that together we can succeed in **creating solidarity** among the Friends and the elites and can develop an "esprit de corps". This will not only enable us to raise the political elites' attention to our causes and challenges as private landowners and entrepreneurs but also lay the foundations for a stable and peaceful future. A future in which private business and rural property get the support they need and in which our children can carry on with our heritage.

Michael Prinz zu SALM SALM

(red. extracts of the Welcoming speech pronounced during FCS GA)

Welcoming Estates Website

During our annual meeting in Udine we launched the new Friends of the Countryside initiative: the "Welcoming Estates Website". This website does not only attract more tourists to our estates and let them enjoy the beautiful countryside, nature and facilities, but also informs you about your colleague estates, your friends of the countryside. By providing this user-friendly, organized and attractive website we are convinced that many estate lovers will increasingly find their way to us and enjoy the hidden treasures each estate has to offer.

In a nutshell

What exactly does this website and membership of Welcoming Estates Website entail? In a nutshell, the website will provide people with a clear overview of the various estates and it will show what these estates have to offer. People will be able to choose a collection of estates sorted by specific categories or simply make their own selection by combining several sub categories themselves. Are you curious to see what the Welcoming Estates Website will look like? Take a look at **www.welcomingestateswebsite.com**.

If you want to participate

please let us know by contacting

Clara MORENO de BORBON clara.moreno@elo.org

7th June, visits in the countryside

... "Ippolito Nievo, the writer, calls Friuli 'un piccolo compendo del universe'. The region Friuli-Venezia Giulia encompasses an area of less than eight-thousand square kilometres between the Alps and the Adriatic coast. A tourist is able to move on two days from the Dolomites and the Canon glaciers to the lagunes of Grado and Marano with their avifauna oases, admire





exquisite examples of Roman remains, medieval abbeys, renaissance palaces, Palladian villas, and even neoclassic architecture and works from the Viennese Secession (around Trieste). Two fifths of the region are mountainous, one fifth is hilly and one fourth is covered by forest and woods..."

On Saturday 5 different sites from Friuli were highlighted during the visits to the countryside:

First the Cividale Region with a visit to the city of Cividale, the Castle and vineyards of Rocca Bernard and the ham processing factory in San Daniele. A second group discovered the surrounding area of Rocca Bernard with a visit of the bio-wine producing and didactic farm of the family RUBINI, a joined visit to Rocca Bernarda and a very interesting guided tour by a biologist to the natural reserve and lakes of Laghi di Doberdone at the border with Slovenia. Most of the Young Friends of the Countryside participated to the visit to Gorizia region, welcomed by Niccolo and Carolina PICCOLMINI at Palazzo Lantieri in Gorizia for a visit and lunch followed in the afternoon by a very interactive discussion at the winery Villa de PUPPI with Catarina who is taking over the family estate. Those interested by historical houses were welcomed in Cordovado castle by Sergio and Anna GELMI di CAPPORIANO and finished the afternoon in Arcano castle which is dedicated to bio-

wine producing. And the fifth group went at the Roman city of Aquileia well known for the basilica and the mosaics, they took the boat from Aquileia to Grado to visit the lagoon and were then welcomed in Tenuta di Blasig for a lunch and visit of the wine processing and vineyards with Elisabetta BORTOLOTO. The Saturday ended at Susans Castle with a visual performance dedicated to Marc CHAGALL and the FCS enjoyed typical Friulan buffets presenting the local products, wines and grappa.

As each year each visit represented a unique opportunity for sharing experiences and learning more about wine processing and Friulan vineyards which are famous in Europe and for meeting with the families managing their estates since generations.

Post tour

On Sunday some 50 Friends continued for a five days Post Tour from Udine to Padova and from Padova to Venice. Among a lot of visits proposed they went for the most beautiful gardens of Italy in Valsanzibio welcomed by the young owner, Count PIZZONI ARDEMANI. They were invited at Palazzo Papafava in Padova and then at Frassanelle castle by Francesca PAPAFAVA.

The Monday Mr BORLETTI and his family made a complete tour of the Dominio di

Bagnoli from the vineyards, wine processing, cattle, event management to the high tech bio-gas installations. Followed long discussions on the profitability of the estates dedicated to agriculture, the number of hectares needed per countries, the need of reconciliation when you work with family members and on how to make it to encourage the young generation to take over. In Dominio di Bagnoli the Friends found some answers to their questions, there it is about diversifying but keeping an eye on high quality in each activity developed on the farm and not hesitating to export European labels.

The trip continued to the hilly countryside surrounding Padova to Monselice, Montagnana and the Villa Vescovi and the Friends were back in Padova on Wednesday to have a visit of all the most important sites of the city among the Scrovegni Chapel.

The Post Tour ended by a day on the Brenta canal with the Burchiello boat from Padova to Venice, stopping in the Palladian villas Pisani, Widmann, Badoer and Foscari.

The next General Assembly will take place **in Norfolk region (UK) from the 21st to the 24th of May 2015**, the Post Tour till 26th of May.

Emma BAILEY, Jehanne de DORLODOT



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The 'Green Goods Initiative': Liberalising trade in environmental goods and services

On the 8th of July in Geneva, the EU together with 13 other WTO members (Australia, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong (China), Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Singapore and the US) have formally opened plurilateral negotiations in the WTO on liberalization of trade in so-called 'green goods'. Collectively, the group accounts for around 86% of the world trade in green goods. The EU is a world leader both in terms of export and import of environmental goods, and is followed by China and other APEC members.

At the first stage, the members of this initiative will aim to eliminate tariffs or customs duties on a broad list of green goods that help clean the air and water, help manage waste, are energy efficient, control air pollution, and help generate renewable energy like solar, wind, or hydroelectric. At the second stage, the negotiations could also address non-tariff barriers and environmental services. The EU is particularly interested in reducing barriers to trade in services ancillary to goods exported. E.g. to produce wind energy, it is not enough just to buy the wind turbine: companies also need to have access to the maintenance and engineering services necessary to keep it running smoothly in the world of global value chains.

Source :

<http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1118>



G.OETTINGER

EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW)

EU Sustainable Energy Week 2014 took place from 23 to 27 June 2014. For the 2014 edition, Energy Days were organised during the whole month of June. Organised from 2006, EUSEW showcase activities dedicated to energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions. It is designed to spread best practices, inspire new ideas and build alliances to help meet the EU's energy and climate goals.

The week also hosted a lively High Level Policy Conference in Brussels. More than 32 events and (policy) sessions were organised by both European institutions and external stakeholders. Around 1000 Energy Days also took place in more than 48 countries across Europe and beyond. A highlight of the Week was the prestigious Awards ceremony. Hosted by EU Commissioner for Energy, Günther H. OETTINGER, the event combined the eighth edition of the **Sustainable Energy Europe Awards (SEE)** with the **ManagEnergy Award**. From 342 projects six projects were selected in each of the five SEE categories and ManagEnergy.

For more information and 2015 edition please visit the website <http://www.eusew.eu/home>

Mercury – Have your say on the EU implementation of the Minamata Convention

The European Commission has launched an on-line consultation on issues related to the ratification and implementation by the EU of the Minamata Convention on mercury. The Convention was signed in October 2013. At that time, it was the 1st international environmental agreement concluded in a decade. It is a global treaty that aims to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury, and aims to phase out many of its current uses.

The EU signed the Minamata Convention and now intends to become a party. However, while the Minamata Convention largely contains measures similar to or identical to existing EU legislation, certain additional measures will be needed. And certain elements of EU legislation need to be amended accordingly. In particular, gaps have been identified in EU legislation in the following areas:

- Import restrictions for metallic mercury from non-Parties
- Export ban for certain products containing mercury
- Mercury use in products and processes not yet placed on the market
- Restrictions on certain processes where mercury is used
- Mercury use in Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM)

The consultation is online until 14 November 2014.

Source :

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-933_en.htm

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Sustainable Intensification of European Agriculture

Abstract

Sustainable Intensification of existing agricultural land to avoid further degradation of natural forest, grassland and wild areas is a logical and generally accepted concept. This report sponsored by the RISE Foundation examines in some detail what it should mean in the context of the already intensive agriculture of the European Union which has been associated with environmental damage. The conclusion is that the emphasis must be on the first word of the couplet, sustainability. But unfortunately practical application of these ideas is hampered because there is a lack of evidence on what are truly unsustainable practices, the multiplicity of approaches to sustainability indicators, and a lack of farm-level measures and benchmarks.

The report therefore indicates broad policy and individual farmer actions for European agriculture to find and adopt paths of sustainable intensification, and suggests lines of research which could help this process.

A project with this title was completed in June this year by a team from the London based Institute of European Environmental Policy (IEEP) in collaboration with researchers from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna, and the Technical University Munich. The project was sponsored by the RISE Foundation founded by former Agricultural Commissioner Franz FISCHLER, and overseen by ex ELO President Corrado PIRZIO BIROLI.

The initial purpose of the project was to explore the meaning of the concept of sustainable intensification specifically in the context of EU agriculture. It was explained how the most recent upsurge in the use of the phrase emerged from the active discussions about global food security since the agricultural commodity price spikes from 2007-12. The essential idea of sustainable intensification is that it will be less

environmentally damaging if the increase in agricultural production worldwide stimulated by continued population and income growth and accompanying dietary change comes from intensified use of the existing land under cultivation than if further forests, natural grasslands or wetlands were brought into agriculture. However, in view of the considerable environmental damage already brought about by the agricultural intensification of the 20th Century, it is essential that ways are found to reduce significantly the negative impacts of any further intensification.

The definition adopted was that Sustainable Intensification means simultaneously improving the productivity and environmental management of agricultural land. The report overtly acknowledges that measures to deal with global food security cannot focus on production alone. They must focus also on containing the growth of consumption of agricultural products – for food, feed and energy, particularly by reducing waste and avoiding the public health costs of over-consumption, and dealing with problems of uneven access to food. However this study chose to concentrate on agricultural production, and the geographical focus was the EU.

The report examines five considerations which led to the conclusion that sustainable Intensification of EU agriculture must place most emphasis on the first word of the couplet - sustainability. This means finding ways to continue the process of technical change in food production to radically improve the resource efficiency of European agriculture and at the same time showing land managers how to meet European citizens' ambitions for high standards of biodiversity, climate, soil, water and cultural landscape protection. Much space is devoted to deconstructing and clarifying the component words of sustainable intensification. This partly amounts to destigmatising intensification and showing the wide range of interpretations of the word sustainable. In the context of agriculture, **intensity** is well defined as a ratio of inputs or output per hectare. It is relatively easily measured but it is generally

denigrated! In contrast, **sustainability** is not at all well defined, or measured; yet it is universally supported!

The key conclusions drawn from the review of the concepts behind sustainable intensification are:

- Input intensification per se is **not** the goal, but may well be a consequence of achieving these goals. An input which should be intensified everywhere is knowledge per hectare.
- The prime goals of sustainable intensification are a resource efficient agriculture with significantly higher environmental performance. Ecosystem degradation is itself reducing agricultural productivity.
- Sustainable intensification means improving productivity of crops and animals whilst reducing: the leakages of nutrients, crop protection chemicals and greenhouse gases; soil erosion and biodiversity, habitat and species loss; and expanding conservation outputs of agriculture.
- Because intensity and sustainability of agricultural systems vary enormously and from site to site, sustainable intensification development paths will differ widely between locations, farming systems and individual farms.
- Sustainable intensification will mean increasing agricultural outputs in some cases and conservation outputs in others, and in some situations both.
- It would be helpful if academic and commercial attempts to measure sustainability in agricultural systems were to build on the basis of the official indicator sets.
- More effort should be expended to examine the evidence on environmental thresholds relevant to EU agriculture, particularly those related to climate.
- In the absence of evidence on thresholds, then it would be more scientifically defensible to talk about environmental, economic and social performance rather than sustainability. This would better match the use of legislative standards as

proxies for thresholds, as performance below such standards is unacceptable.

- Sustainable intensification can be seen as the latest phrase to convey the idea that farmers have the twin roles of producing food and environmental services.

The report examines the wide array of public policies and land manager and agribusiness actions that could lead to development paths fitting the description of sustainable intensification. It concludes with the following final remarks.

The collective actions required to define and measure the environmental performance of EU agriculture are well advanced, although not complete. Equally, the suite

of policies to protect the farmed environment through environmental legislation and agricultural policy instruments is well developed. In short, in Europe, broadly we know what the problems are and where they are, and we have policy measures which could contribute to dealing with them, so why is progress to reduce these problems insufficient?

One answer is a misguided concern of the contribution of European agricultural production to global food security. The worry is that by taking measures to improve environmental performance in Europe this will reduce production potential in a world of still growing population and food demand. These fears may be overstated. Europe is a

relatively high cost production area and its agricultural exports are of more processed high quality foods and highly developed plant and animal genetics. It is therefore not generally a source of low cost calories for poorest countries. Second, there is a continuing long-term trend in underlying productivity growth which also responds positively to R&D effort. In this context the potential output loss from the further withdrawal of a few percentage points of land to provide biodiversity and water protection could be replaced by a relatively few year's productivity growth. Third, such is the size of food waste in the EU, that the private and public efforts to reduce this could also 'replace' output forgone from some production areas where actions are taken to reduce negative environmental effects of intensive production.

Another answer lies perhaps with the perceptions and motivations of farmers. It is not at all clear that they appreciate the extent of the environmental degradation that has accumulated over the last century, or the potential threat this poses for continued future production. This underlines the importance of continuing the efforts to provide the evidence of this damage, and to put more effort to investigate the extent of environmental change and to improve our understanding of the time-scale in which environmental thresholds may be reached.

The two most important lessons of applying the idea of sustainable intensification to European agriculture are that farmers and the public should learn to take a more holistic view of the agricultural and environmental outputs from agricultural land management, and that the key input to be intensified is knowledge.

Allan BUCKWELL,
IEEP Senior Research Fellow

Any comments or reaction to this article are welcome: ELO would be delighted to benefit from your views. *This problematic* will be further debate during the two regional events of the Forum for the Future of Agriculture : the 30th of September in Copenhagen and the 9th of October in Bucharest.

(red.)

For more information please visit
www.forumforagriculture.com



The future direction of the Wildlife Estates Label

As a new member of the ELO team and Chief Operating Officer for the Wildlife Estates (WE) Secretariat, I would like to take this opportunity to briefly introduce myself and my views towards the future direction of the Wildlife Estates Label.



tiative. I am looking forward to working in the Brussels office to provide assistance, advice, and direction to the Wildlife Estates Label.

I am happy to see that we are already off to a good start. By the end of 2013, the WE Label had nearly reached 1.000.000 hectares across various regions in Europe. The number of labelled Wildlife Estates is constantly expanding, and the principal aim of my work will be to make sure this trend is continuing with momentum. I have set as a first

priority to acquire a new label in the Czech Republic, as well as many other EU countries, and to establish a positive relationship with stakeholders in this country.

I am fully aware of the responsibility to preserve the trust that the WE Label team expressed by offering me this position. I will do my best to meet your expectations, and to make sure the WE Label continues to produce excellent results.

Yours sincerely,

Konstantin KOSTOPOULOS

After postgraduate studies in economics in the UK and the US, I worked as a member of the team of Greek officials tasked with the negotiations for the accession of Greece to the European Community and in the Greek Permanent Representation to the EC. Later, after working in the FAO of the United Nations in Rome, I joined the European Commission to deal with external affairs, in particular with assistance to Eastern Europe and negotiations on enlargement, and a few years later, I was assigned the task of co-ordinator for the Commission in the Council group on Enlargement.

In between dealing with enlargement issues, I worked in the cabinet of the Greek Commissioner for the Environment. There, I was responsible for economic and budgetary affairs, agriculture and regional development, the soil strategy and the LIFE+ programme. The experience gained there was vital to developing an understanding that we have reached the point where sustainable resource management must become the default option. While society relies on the natural world for the countless services it delivers for free, a clear indication that nature is suffering is the declining biodiversity.

As of June 2014, straight after leaving the Commission, I joined the ELO team. I believe that only with the help of projects like the WE Label, can we discover and promote practices that combine the two seemingly conflicting goals – exploiting natural resources and restoring precious biodiversity. It is a great honor to join this successful ini-

Joint OIE-CIC International Meeting on Animal Health Issues



The **Joint OIE-CIC International Meeting on early detection and prevention of African Swine Fever (ASF) and other animal health issues at the wildlife-livestock-human interface** was held at the Headquarters of the OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) in Paris, France, on 30 June – 1 July, 2014.

With this meeting, the OIE and CIC aim to enhance the capacity of countries in early detection, official notification and response to animal diseases, especially in wild animals.

Director General of the OIE, Dr Bernard VALLAT stressed the importance of cooperation between hunters and other stakeholders, saying that *"OIE and CIC are working together to develop and promote these concepts in order to better mobilize stakeholders and strengthen alliances between the authorities and organizations of hunters, fishermen and professionals of aquatic and terrestrial protected areas"*, a message strongly supported by CIC President, Mr. Bernard LOZÉ.

Much of the focus of the meeting was on African Swine Fever (ASF), a disease which appeared in the Georgia in 2007 and has since spread throughout the wider trans-Caucasus region, the Russian Federation, and into Lithuania, Poland and Latvia in 2014, with wild boar seen as the main vector in the spread of the virus into the EU.

Studies suggest that wild boar on their own, where population densities are relatively low, are not able to maintain the disease in the environment. It is not yet known what the persistence of the virus in the environment might be where wild boar densities are high. As sentinels on the ground, hunters must understand the importance of collaborating with veterinary services for the health of wildlife, livestock and humans. As a next step, the CIC (including its sister organization in the EU, FACE – The European Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation) and OIE need to develop action items and their funding in order to implement a response to the main findings of the meeting.

CIC team

For more information please visit www.cic-wildlife.org

EUROPEAN BEE AWARD

Call for applications 2014



The European Bee Award aims to reward farmers, landowners, land managers or rural entrepreneurs who encourage the protection of pollinators and biodiversity in the farmed environment

**PRIZE
5000 €**

The prize is awarded by the European Landowners' Organization (ELO) in partnership with the European Agricultural Machinery Association (CEMA)

Download the application form at www.elo.org/awards and send it

by email to:
ana.canomanuel@elo.org

or
by post to:
Bee Award - ELO
rue de Trèves 67
B-1040 Brussels

**Deadline
for applications
1st October 2014**

CONTACT:
www.elo.org/awards
elo@elo.org
0032(0)2 234 30 00

AWARD CRITERIA

1. New crop management practices that benefit both managed honeybee populations and also wild bees and other pollinators
2. Novel practices that reduce the impact of farming operations on honeybees and other pollinators

3. Innovation in integrated pest management that helps pollinators
4. New ways to manage non-cropped areas that increase the availability of flowers and other resources for pollinators

Award coordinator
ana.canomanuel@elo.org

The 2014 European Bee Award: call for applications now open!

ELO and the European Agricultural Machinery Association (CEMA) have opened the call for applications for the 2014 European Bee Award. As of now, you can submit your projects for the protection of pollinators via the application that is available on ELO's website www.elo.org. The winning project will receive a prize of 5,000€, a diploma of recognition and promotion through ELO and CEMA's communication channels.

The President of the Jury, Prof. Charles GODFRAY from Oxford University explains the key aspects that the Jury will consider when choosing the winner of the prize: "The Jury will take a broad view of possible interventions and welcomes novel and innovative ideas. We will consider practices that benefit not only managed honeybee populations but also wild bees and other pollinators. We encourage submissions on interventions that measurably improve pollinator wellbeing on all farm types".

The Jury of the Bee Award brings together dedicated experts in the field of bees and biodiversity (Bernard VAISSIÈRE, Elisa VIÑUELA), representatives from the European Commission (Ladislav MIKO), the Eu-



ropean Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) (Maria Luisa PARACHINI), the European Parliament (Mairead MCGUINNESS MEP), NGOs (Walter HAEFEKER) and Ag Machinery Industry (Gilles DRYANCOUR).

The award ceremony will be hosted by MEP Mairead MCGUINNESS at the European Parliament in Brussels, and it is scheduled to take place during the first week of December.

The organisers look forward to receiving your application!

For further information or questions on the application, please contact the award coordinator, Ana CANOMANUEL, at ana.canomanuel@elo.org



Opportunity for exchange between the generations

From the 5th to the 8th of June the Young Friends (YFCS) were invited to join to the General Assembly of the Friends of the Countryside (FCS) in Udine, Italy. The weekend promised an extraordinary programme and a great opportunity for exchange between the different generations, and so it turned out to be.

On Friday the 6th, a conference offered several intriguing views not only on the paradox of renewable energy, land investment, and sustainability, but also on the recent European elections. Lorenzo BINI SMAGHI, SNAM President and former member of the ECB, challenged, in his speech, the current EU election procedures and outlined that direct legitimacy for the executives is needed. Moreover, he outlined that there will be more crises to come, but that every crisis will lead to more efficient systems.

Furthermore, the Young Friends welcome the new presidency of Michael PRINZ ZU SALM-SALM and look forward to working with him. Francesco KINSKY, Secretary General of the YFCS, underlined the importance of a dynamic network between the FCS, YFCS, and the ELO. He informed the General Assembly that YFCS membership has been increasing, currently at 209 registered users. Nevertheless, the need for Friends to encourage their children and grandchildren



F.KINSKY DAL BORGO

to become members and to deepen the relationships between YFCS and FCS, stands. In addition, it was very encouraging and motivating to watch this year's ANDERS WALL AWARD nomination. As many Young Friends will have to and partly already face the challenging task of managing an estate, the ANDERS WALL AWARD ceremony provided inspiration and at the same time practical advice.

On the following day, the Young Friends joined one of the tours organised by the ELO team. The first stop, at the Palazzo Lantieri, was hosted by Niccolo and Carolina PICCOLOMINI LANTIERI. This proved to be a fascinating visit, at a place which was not only a home for St Antonius of Padua, but also for Madame Royal of France. This outlines the extent to which an outstanding place can shape history. Secondly, the Young Friends visited the estate and vineyard of CONTE LUIGI DE PUPPI and his daughter Caterina DE PUPPI, who is managing the estate. The

Young Friends learned about wine production in an area, which is known for wine, and were very impressed by the example Caterina DE PUPPI is setting by managing the wine estate at an age corresponding to the average age of the Young Friends!

Most importantly, the Young Friends cannot thank enough and are very grateful for every exchange between the different generations. The GA of the FCS always proves to be an extraordinary opportunity to learn from the generation before us. We can only but learn from our parents' generation and very much appreciated and enjoyed every conversation with the FCS members!

Thus, after this extraordinary weekend, the Young Friends look forward to the next GA of the FCS, which will take place in the end of May in the UK next year!

Marie-Christine SCHÖNBORN,
YFCS member

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My first General Assembly in Udine

As a member of the YFCS for under a year, I was happy to attend my first General Assembly in Udine from the 5th to the 8th of June.

First of all, I loved the destination. Italy is a country so rich in history and the region around Udine, near the Slovenian border, was indeed beautiful. Discovering it for the first time was a great pleasure.

The first evening we went to a restaurant in town. Chatting with friends around the Italian cuisine and spending time with people sharing the same interests is one of the features I like most about this organization!

I found the conference on the next day highly interesting. The topics, such as the future of the European Union - its existence or even, survival in our society with its consequences for farm-




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ing; and, the windmills - their economic and ecological impact, particularly absorbed my attention. I think we are all affected in one way or another by these. They have become a part of our everyday life and the great challenge for our generation will be to combine the economic and ecological aspects for every enterprise we start. We have to decide and judge beyond the appearances, what the "real" renewable energies of the future are, and I think the way it was discussed at the conference was open minded and paved the way to new ideas.

On Saturday, being part of one of the tours was a very rewarding experience. As we visited old castles and places that have stood in this region for centuries, one could not help but wonder at their beauty. With the sun beating down, it was a pleasure to walk between the cool walls, listening to the host and the stories of the place. How incredible to think that all these old stones have witnessed the life of people born centuries before us!

The next visit was to the estate and vineyard of a YFCS member. I very much liked seeing what Caterina de PUPPI did there, managing and developing her family legacy with a great attention to quality and excellence.

I thoroughly enjoyed the whole weekend and appreciated very much being able to learn from people with experience. From beginning to end, this year's General Assembly was a success. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to make this an unforgettable weekend and I am looking forward to the next General Assembly in the UK.

Salomé MALOU, YFCS member



Lorenzo BINI SMAGHI 33 false verità sull'Europa

Il Mulino 2014
ISBN 978-88-15-25153-4

Those who criticize the European construction, from the euro to the European Central Bank, as well as the Fiscal compact and the banking union, are often the same parties who have signed the agreements in Brussels and then ratified them in their own countries. Making the EU the scapegoat of all evils is a self-punishing strategy that not only fuels all sorts of populisms, but also exposes the political parties and governments who adopt it to the accusation that they are incapable of making their voice heard in Brussels, and that they knew what needed to be done but did not do it.

However it seems more coherent, and therefore more effective, to re-discuss the entire European construction, instead of the weak opinion of those who are "for Europe but not this Europe". The crisis of the European Union is in fact a crisis of Member States who, in an ever more integrated system, are not able to effectively act on their own and at the same time are unwilling to transfer certain powers to European institutions. Along this theory, and using factual arguments, this book dismantles some of the "false truths" about Europe. It does not overlook the responsibilities of the European Union, but also points out the responsibilities of its Member States, which appear to be far greater.

For more information please visit the website of the author
<http://www.lorenzobinismaghi.com/>

DIARY DATES 2014

2 – 4 September, HOLKHAM Estate (UK)

Wildlife Estates Plenary Session
www.wildlife-estates.eu

7 - 12 September, Colorado (USA)

8th International Congress for Wildlife and Livelihoods on Private and Communal Lands: Livestock, Tourism, and Spirit
<http://tiny.cc/2014WildlifeCongress>

11 – 14 September, Lisbon

YFCS General Assembly
<http://www.yfcs.eu/>

23 September, New York, UN Headquarters

UN Climate Summit – catalyzing action
<http://www.un.org/climatechange/>

25- 27 September, Dubrovnik

The Best in Heritage 2014
<http://www.europanostra.org/>

30th September, Copenhagen

7th Forum for the Future of Agriculture regional conference, chaired by F. FISCHLER, co-organised by ELO and Syngenta, in association with DGH - Danske Godser og Herregårde, the Sveriges Jordägareförbund and YARA International
<http://www.forumforagriculture.com/regional-conferences.html>

3- 5 October, Lisbon

EHHA General Assembly
<http://www.europeanhistorichouses.eu/>

9th October, Bucharest

7th Forum for the Future of Agriculture regional conference co-organised by ELO, and Syngenta, in association with the Liga Asociatiilor Producatorilor Agricoli din Romania (LAPAR)
<http://www.forumforagriculture.com/regional-conferences.html>

Syngenta

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