

# CountrySide

European Landowners' Organization

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## Access and use of farmland



# Editorial

Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, *Secretary General*

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### *Futuristic Farming*

*What does the farm of the future look like? Does it employ farmers and farm workers, or will it have an IT manager who maintains the driverless tractors and harvesting robots which will do the job 24/7 without much human input? Will we still need well-managed soil and the vagaries of rain and sun, or can we move everything indoors into climate-controlled, sensor-activated spaces in a CO<sub>2</sub> rich environment? Can we create meat in laboratories that can mimic the products we enjoy today?*

*These are serious questions that we need to debate sooner rather than later. Big data technology is already well past its testing phase and will be taken up widely in EU farming in the next decade. The new set of plant breeding techniques, while still on legally unsure ground here, have extraordinary potential to forever change the crops we grow and consume, and every day we see more evidence that research into alternative meat production may pay off.*

*If we become too obsessed with the serious but day-to-day affairs governing EU agriculture, we may miss out on the big changes that are coming down the road. It is time that we started a high-level debate where we leave our prejudices behind and ask farmers, land managers, citizens and governments what we want and need from our farming future.*





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## Access and use of farmland

*ELO welcomes the 'Commission Interpretative Communication on the Acquisition of Farmland and European Union Law', published on the 12th of October. This document engages with the most pressing concerns, and indicates which solutions have to be avoided by Member States.*

Otto von ARNOLD, Co-Chairman of the ELO Policy Group  
Michael SAYER, member of the Board, Friends of the Countryside

**A**gricultural land is a precious good and a special asset. It is essential for food, feed and energy production, and the delivery of public goods. It remains a matter within the competency of each Member State of the European Union on a national level. Yet, the acquisition of farmland and forestry itself is also governed by EU law, and as such has to follow its 'four fundamental freedoms': the free movement of persons, goods, services, and capital.

ELO recognizes the specific nature of agricultural land, emphasizing however that it must comply with those four freedoms to ensure equal rights for all EU citizens throughout the European Union. Working daily on such issues like access to agricultural land and forestry, taxation, inheritance, land tenure contracts, and ownership and management of land, ELO believes that respect for property rights, as well as long-term vision and legal stability, are the only path to ensure a profitable agriculture sector and therefore a decent living for farmers, land managers and land-owners.

### Acquisition of farmland and the reform of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP)

The ongoing CAP reform discussions have brought up the debate on access to agricultural land. Unfortunately, many opinions are based on pure populism, or even worse, a lack of common sense, deprived of any economic, social or environmental reasoning. How can any serious expert believe that the solution for EU farming should be to split up big farms to such an extent as to result in a proliferation of "Sunday farmers", with plots that are less than 1 hectare? Or on the other hand, how can any rational politician, having any notion of European history – especially the one shared by the former Communist block – say that only the state should own land as it would be a better manager than private owners? The EU agricultural sector is part of the global economy and we must have the tools to, in times of fierce competition, compete and defend European values in a sustainable way.

The "Exchange of views on the access and use of farmland" organized in the Euro-

pean Parliament in February, in partnership with the President of the Intergroup "Biodiversity, Hunting and Countryside", Karl-Heinz FLORENZ, offered an additional opportunity to deepen that debate. The discussion around the European Parliament own-initiative report "State of play of farmland concentration in the EU: how to facilitate the access to land for farmers" proved that there is a clear need to provide Member States with guidelines and a list of criteria on what is compatible with the rules of the internal market in order to improve their national land market regulations.

### Land regulations as a Member State competency

Land policy is a national competency and therefore Member States are solely responsible for their land sales and rent markets. However, the *Interpretative Communication* confirms that restrictions violating the internal market rules are not allowed, and when discriminatory and overly restrictive, they have to be changed.



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The European Commission has launched a number of infringement procedures against Member States from Central and Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia and Slovakia) to contest such restrictions; procedures which should soon be finalized at the European Court of Justice if the respective laws are not adapted. This is especially important taking into account the recent declaration by the Visegrád Group (V4) countries and the relevant ministers from Slovenia, Romania and Bulgaria (June 2017 in Warsaw), stating

that, “With regard to land regulations, an agreement was reached on the fact that farmland is a unique and finite resource to which, as a result and also in view of its important role in food security, general business and commercial regulations cannot be applied. We expect the European Commission to assure Member States the right to protect their farmland from speculators”.

Clear guidelines, such as those stated in the *Interpretative Communication*, are necessary to avoid other countries introducing farmland regulations in breach of EU laws.

These must be taken into account when defining a suitable national policy for the agricultural land market. Such is the case in Poland, where the current law from 30 April 2016 is in clear breach of those requirements, for example, with the requirement of residency for a minimum of 5 years in the community where land is to be bought, and the obligation to self-farm that land for the subsequent 5 years. Such requirements were already rejected by the ECJ in the *Ospelt* judgement (Case C-452/01, *Ospelt*). Similarly, in Romania new legislation is being drafted that would prioritize farmers – especially young ones – in land purchases. Meanwhile, Lower Saxony comes close to violation with its acquisition cap.

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#### Applicable EU law

It is worth mentioning that the *Interpretative Communication* gives a short overview of the most important EU jurisprudence and EU legislation that must be respected based on EU Treaty principles. It clearly states restrictions which are not allowed, for example:

- Self-farming obligations;
- Some of the qualification requirements;
- Residency requirements;
- Prohibition on legal persons;
- Privileges in favour of locals;
- Reciprocity

It also points out which solutions teeter on the brink of legality when wrongly applied, for example price controls, or acquisition caps.

ELO strongly believes that while exchange of best practices on the regulation of agricultural land markets is a good proposition from the European Commission, it is much more important to introduce positive incentives than to impose restrictions.

At the end of the day, European agriculture and the countryside will only be attractive if it is economically viable for those who are already part of the sector, as well as for new entrants.

Josef Hofer (1801-1877), Detail from "View of Palais Rasumofsky from the garden pavilion," after 1837  
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Conference '2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage: Promoting the role of historic houses owners in Catalonia and across Europe', La Pedrera, Barcelona

## Getting ready for the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage!

*The European Historic Houses Association held its Annual General Assembly and Conference from September 27 to October 1 2017 in Barcelona, Spain – a city with a vibrant cultural heritage and architectural diversity. This four-day event included a Conference, gala dinner, the General Assembly and Executive Committee of the Association, as well as a rich programme of cultural visits.*

*It was an opportunity to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of our Catalan Association, MONUMENTA, and to prepare for the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage.*

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**Lucie MARET, European Historic Houses Association**

The programme started on Thursday 28 September with the Conference '2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage: Promoting the role of historic houses owners in Catalonia and across Europe' organized in Casa Mila - La Pedrera, an iconic building by the architect Antoni GAUDI.

The participants were welcomed by Javier GIMENO BRIO, President of MONUMENTA, and Rodolphe de LOOZ-CORSWAR-EM, President of the European Historic Houses Association, who talked about the 2017 International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, which is a crucial subject in Barcelona, given the challenges linked to over-tourism that the city is facing. Rodolphe de LOOZ-CORSWAREM highlighted the fact that

the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage was the result of a long running campaign by the heritage sector; focused on the idea that cultural heritage contributes to Europe both economically and socially. The 50,000 private owners represented by the Association contribute enormously to this by creating locally based jobs, opening their houses and organizing activities to stimulate citizens' engagement with culture and heritage, and by ensuring the sustainable management and succession of their heritage to future generations.

The first keynote speech was delivered by Maria TENA, Advisor to the Spanish Directorate General of Fine Arts & Cultural Heritage. She shared the government's initiatives for the 2018 European Year of

Cultural Heritage, including events, conferences, and a photographic exhibition. They will focus on restoration, preservation, accessibility, and democratization of heritage – with a specific scheme targeting young people about heritage interpretation. The second keynote speech was delivered by Artis PABRIKS, Member of the European Parliament, which focused on the importance of raising citizens' awareness of cultural heritage, and on its crucial role in building our identities. He stressed the importance of creating synergies and fostering collaboration to make the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage a success – and to disseminate its positive outcomes in the following years.

Enric NUBIOLA, Coordinator of interna-



tional projects on culture, tourism and development at LABPATC, drew attention to best practices in associated private management of cultural heritage as a way to alleviate the challenges relating to heritage preservation and management. Esteban RAVENTOS, Partner at Baker & McKenzie, shared some insights into potential improvements in the taxation systems relating to heritage houses, notably by setting a reduced VAT rate for heritage works, but also by promoting family business regimes, and by taking inspiration from the US system of patronage. MONUMENTA members José MATA HERBERG and Joan BOTEY SERRA shared the challenges they face and innovative business practices they have developed to make their houses self-sustainable, with little support from public institutions. Finally, Dana BELDIMAN, President of the Latvian Castles and Manor Association, drew on the Latvian experience to show that private historic houses have to function as productive entities, as businesses, in order to survive. The role of private owners is thus to capitalize on the assets of their house to create a successful business model, with an appropriate branding strategy.

The roundtable addressed the potential solutions to the current challenges in the heritage field, in light of the 2018 Euro-

pean Year of Cultural Heritage, and was made up of members of the government of Catalonia, private owners of historic houses, and representatives from the Caixa Banking Foundation and from Hispania Nostra.

The day ended with a prestigious Gala dinner, organized with the generous support of Christie's at the *Circulo Ecuestre*. It gathered more than 100 people, including the Association's governors, the speakers of the Conference and MONUMENTA members.

On Friday 29 September, the Association's governors met at the *Foment del Treball Nacional* for the Association's General Assembly. The meeting enabled constructive discussions on the VAT issue, energy efficiency directives currently under revision, and on the illicit trafficking of cultural goods. The Association also presented two programs, under the umbrella of the Voices of Culture, where it strives to make private owners' voice heard: the stakeholders group on the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage, and on 'Skills, training & knowledge transfer in cultural heritage'. The *Welcoming Estates Website* initiative, held in partnership with the Friends of the Countryside, was also presented. William CARTWRIGHT-HIGNETT, Next Gener-

tion coordinator, presented the progress of the Next Generation group and announced the 2018 Conference, which will be held in Seville on March 2-4 2018.

The opportunities provided by the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage were discussed at length, notably the main European events that Association members should attend, as well as the specific EU program opportunities. Governors vowed to support the two main activities which will be carried out by the Association: the Private Heritage Week (24-27 May 2018), and the photographic competition.

The cultural program started with a tour and lunch at the *Palau de la Musica Catalana*, a World Heritage Site, and continued at the *Casa de la Seda*, one of the oldest guild houses in Barcelona. Finally, the participants were treated to a guided tour of *El Viver*, a house dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

Participants were privileged to start the next day with a visit of the *Castillo de la Rapita*; a house that is inhabited all year-round and where the family focuses on the maintenance of the house and development of the arable lands. The programme was followed by a lunch and visit to the *Castell de Riudabella*, where participants had the pleasure of enjoying specialty food and activities.

The programme closed with a visit and dinner at *Parque Sama*, a house characteristic for its 'Indiano' style and surrounded by a magnificent park. The Award Ceremony crowned the *Castillo de la Rapita* with the '2017 Historic Houses Awards' for the family's tremendous work in maintaining the authenticity of the house, which dates back to 200 years B.C.

Next year's field visits will be organized in the Netherlands in the spring of 2018, while the Conference and General Assembly will be organized in Brussels in November, to celebrate the end of the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage and to plan for the years to come.

For further information on the Association, or on its activities for the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage, please contact: [info@europeanhistorichouses.eu](mailto:info@europeanhistorichouses.eu).



Castillo de la Rapita, Winner of the 2017 Historic House Award



Tree Nursery at the foot of the Massif Postăvarul



Silviculture Research Station, Ocolul Silvic, Râșnov, Râșnov Valley

## Brown Bears and Beech Trees - Wildlife Estates in Romania

*The Wildlife Estates Label recently held its Annual Plenary Session in Bucharest, Romania. The occasion marked the Label's first Eastern European outreach event and signals its increased commitment to eastern stakeholders in implementing sustainable biodiversity and land management practices.*



Jessica WILLIAMS, Wildlife Estates Coordinator

The Wildlife Estates Label was developed in 2005 as a means of recognizing and acknowledging exemplary landowners and land managers across Europe. The Label strives to raise political and public awareness of the vital role of private actors in biodiversity efforts. It also makes the link between biodiversity and sustainable business models in order to facilitate better communication between land managers and local authorities. The project is based on a voluntary approach by landowners who support the Wildlife Estates guiding principles and who wish to incorporate rigorous scientific methodologies in their land management practices. It is managed by 19 national delegations who

are responsible for promoting the initiative at national and regional levels.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017, the Wildlife Estates Label held its Annual Conference in Bucharest. The event was opened by Romanian Minister for Agriculture, Petre DAEA, who voiced his support for the goals of the Wildlife Estate project and the role of agricultural producers across Europe in managing biodiversity effectively. He stated that, "biodiversity needs to be preserved and guaranteed for the future". He went on to say that, "Romania enjoys, along with many other Member States, a natural diversity that deserves, on the one hand, to be seen, on the other hand to be understood, and not lastly preserved and taught to future generations."

### "Biodiversity needs to be preserved", says Romanian Minister for Agriculture

The theme of the conference was the intersection between land management plans and biodiversity conservation, with the first panel dedicated to "Integrated wildlife management plans for large carnivores", while the second panel explored the creation of "Synergies between forest management and biodiversity management."

Panelists included a wide range of exceptional speakers from the world of academia, business and EU affairs, including Nicola NOTARO, Head of Unit, DG Environment, European Commission; Professor

Ovidiu IONESCU, Vice-Dean at the Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering in the University of Brașov; Bernhard BUDIL, Chairman of the Civil Dialogue Group on Forestry and Cork and Secretary General of the Association of Austrian Land and Forest Owners; and Costel BUCUR, Forest Manager for the IKEA Group, among others.

Panel debates highlighted the importance of integrating biodiversity into the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform, while also maintaining the balance between biodiversity conservation and the interests of landowners and land users. Key concerns included ensuring that adequate dialogue with stakeholders is sought prior to the creation of management plans, as well as when working with stakeholders in regions co-existing with large carnivores. The subject of financial burden-sharing was also addressed. Many speakers called for the recognition of nature and biodiversity as public goods, from which society as a whole benefits, and to which society as a whole should contribute.

The conference was well attended, thanks especially to the efforts of Laurențiu BACIU, President of the Romanian Agricultural Producers Association League (LAPAR) and member of ELO, who mobilized Romanian press and local stakeholders.

The Wildlife Estates Plenary Sessions are not simply talking shops; the 3-day event also gives landowners and managers the

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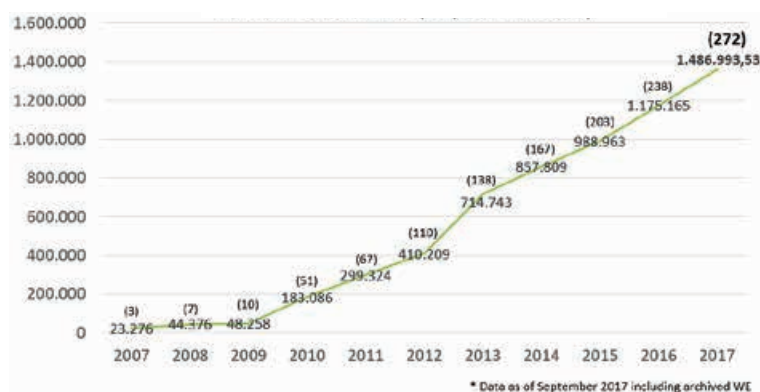
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### Area of WE covered per year and number of estates (in parentheses)



opportunity to go out into the field and to experience alternative local land-management practices.

This year, participants spent the night in the picturesque village of Râșnov at the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains where they had the opportunity to visit the legendary Bran Castle, the 12<sup>th</sup> century fortress on which Dracula's Castle is based. The following day the members were invited to attend a number of site visits to learn about wildlife and forest management plans in place in the surrounding areas.

The group was met by a forestry manager from the Râșnov Forest Authority, in the spectacular the Râșnov Gorge, where the army practices military manoeuvres on the sheer rock cliffs. They were given a guided tour of the tree nursery and research facilities which are perched at the base of the breath-taking Massif Postăvarul. This one-hectare site is equipped with a 100-square-meter solar powered heating and irrigation systems, nearly 2,500 square meters of crop fields, and has an annual capacity of up to 35,000 fir, spruce and beech saplings. The project received 60% of its financing from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

Then, led by Ovidiu IONESCU, who shared

his detailed technical knowledge of local history, wildlife management practices and national legislation, members visited several bear observatories and feeding sites. Afterwards, the group descended from the Carpathians to enjoy some regional delicacies, courtesy of the generosity and hospitality of Árpád SÁRKÁNY, Romania's first Wildlife Estates Member.

*Wildlife Estates events are open to all members as well as those that are interested in learning more about the project.*

*The Wildlife Estates network now has almost 280 members, covering a total area of over 1.5 million hectares. With National Delegations in 19 regions across Europe, the Wildlife Estates Label is the largest private biodiversity label in Europe and is growing steadily. If you're a landowner or manager who is committed to ensuring the integrity and biodiversity of your heritage, don't hesitate to get in contact with the Wildlife Estates Secretariat for more information on how the Label can help you.*

**For more information on or to attend one of our events please visit the site: [www.wildlife-estates.eu](http://www.wildlife-estates.eu) or contact us by email: [wildlife@elo.org](mailto:wildlife@elo.org)**



## The Belleuropa Award

*Each year the Belleuropa Award honours a member of the Wildlife Estates Label for the exceptional work they have undertaken in maintaining, protecting or improving the biodiversity of their land.*

**Jessica WILLIAMS,**  
Wildlife Estates Coordinator

The Belleuropa Award was established in Italy in the late 1990s by Giuseppe NATTA, a leading environmentalist and chemical engineer. The European Landowners' Organization (ELO) has since taken up the torch, awarding the prize each year to a Wildlife Estates member who has demonstrated their dedication to the protection and conservation of wildlife and sustainable land use.

The Belleuropa Award recognizes the value of carefully managed natural habitats whose initiatives have improved the rural landscape and enhanced biodiversity. It promotes sustainable business models based on innovations in conservation, agricultural practice, rural tourism, and the promotion of regional, organic or traditional products with a low environmental impact.

This year the award ceremony will take place in Brussels on the 5th December during the European Biodiversity Conference.

Previous winners have included Les Salins du Midi and Forstbetrieb Morsleben Estate. Les Salins du Midi are pink salt pans in the south of France whose careful environmental stewardship has ensured that these tranquil habitats support a rich and diverse ecosystem. The salt pans are hand harvested and have, for centuries, been a place where indigenous flora and fauna can flourish, and which provide resting and feeding grounds for migratory birds.

The Forstbetrieb Morsleben Estate in Germany successfully restored a military no-man's land along the Iron Curtain to its former natural state. The land, which had been intentionally poisoned over a forty-year period to ensure that no vegetation would grow, is now covered in mixed forest, with 37 species of trees and bushes which have been successfully reintroduced. Thanks to careful restoration, this barren land, once littered with land mines, anti-tank obstacles, and automatic firing devices, is now a natural paradise with a thriving ecosystem.

**For more information on how to apply or to become a member of Wildlife Estates, contact [wildlife@elo.org](mailto:wildlife@elo.org)**



Minister DAEA addresses Romanian news reporters



## Young land managers awarded for landscape conservation

For more than 20 years, the Stichting Natuur en Leefmilieu - Vlaanderen has rewarded a private landowner or manager for their contribution to the development or ecological management of a territory in Belgium by awarding them the Fonds Baillet Latour award for Environment. The prize, valued at €25,000, is the largest in the country to reward sustainable private management of the environment.

The 2017 award went to Ghislain and Gabriëlle de LIEDEKERKE, young landowners in Flanders and members of Young Friends of the Countryside, for their excellent management of the Domaine de Duras, consisting of forests, meadows, and thickets; and especially for the excellent restoration of ponds in collaboration with the Regionaal Landschap Haspengouw. Jurgen TACK, president of the jury, underlined that the

ten hectares of ponds, dykes and meadows that the owners have rehabilitated in collaboration with the regional office for landscapes have allowed for the appearance of aquatic plants and bats.

For more information, please contact: [robert.degraeff@elo.org](mailto:robert.degraeff@elo.org)



## CO-FARM meeting in Slovenia



Maeve HOWE, ELO

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Matija ZADRGAL, Peter SVETINA

CO-FARM is an Erasmus+ funded project that aims to develop a flexible training system based on Case Studies that will provide rural entrepreneurs and farmers with the skills and knowledge to cooperate in different ways.

CO-FARM's third meeting took place recently in Naklo, Slovenia. During the meet-

ing, the consortium finalised the Summary Report that will be published shortly in seven languages. It gives an overview of the current situation, highlighting the most common interpretations of cooperation, as well as the barriers to cooperation in each country.

The real highlight of the meeting was the visit to Zadrgal Farm in the village of Komena where we met Matija ZADRGAL and Peter SVETINA. Matija and his son milk Friesian and Simmental cows, raise hens, and grow vegetables. Peter has many years of experience in the area of employment for people with disabilities, both in Slovenia and in Austria. The two men talked about their common vision for setting up Grunt, a social enterprise that employs five people with disabilities on the farm itself and in on-site processing. They make a wide variety of produce, in-

cluding yoghurts, biscuits, and pasta. The products are sold both on-site and at markets, as well as through public procurement.

It was inspiring to hear about the way Grunt has created a viable and profitable way of creating reliable jobs for people who might otherwise find it difficult to get employment. The contribution of the employees to the life of the farm was palpable; Grunt has breathed a new lease of life into Zadrgal Farm, and we expect to hear a lot more about Grunt in the future.

Visit [www.cofarm-erasmus.eu](http://www.cofarm-erasmus.eu) to find out more about CO-FARM project and follow @COFARM\_ERASMUS on Twitter and on Facebook to get regular updates.



This project has received funding from the European Union's H2020 Research & Innovation programme under grant agreement N° 730398.



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# Spotlight on protecting solitary bees and innovative bee-friendly spraying technology in the IV edition of the European Bee Award

*ELO and CEMA received outstanding applications from all over Europe in the two categories of the 2017 European Bee Award: "Land Management practices" and "Innovative technological solutions". The Members of the Jury, chaired by Professor Charles GODFRAY, have selected a European project on understanding and protecting of solitary bees, and a novel bee-friendly spraying solution as the winners in each category. The award ceremony for the European Bee Award 2017 will take place on 5 December at the European Parliament.*



Ana CANOMANUEL, ELO

## "Land Management practices"

90% of bee species worldwide are solitary bees and they provide essential pollination services. "A bee project for solitary bees" is an initiative to protect wild pollinators in Sibelco's quarries as part of the wider Sibelco Biodiversity Strategy and European species protection program. The project includes several tools to manage quarries sustainably before, during and after operation. The quarries form very diverse landscapes, attracting solitary bees looking to nest in dry siliceous habitats on south-facing slopes. Raising awareness about bee diversity within the company is a priority for the project. People working in the quarries should understand what solitary bees are, and why they are found in the quarries. The project also focuses on recognising and creating good habitats for bees, and how to maintain them, by providing guidelines on flowering, nesting and monitoring.



## "Innovative technological solutions"

The prize for this category will be awarded to the DroplegUL device and application technique, developed by *Lechler GmbH* in partnership with the University of Hohenheim and Südwestdeutsche Saatzeit family farm. The aim of this technological solution is to avoid contact between pollinators and plant protection products (PPPs) when they are applied in the flowering period. This technique addresses conflicts between beekeepers and farmers that arise when PPPs are applied at this time (e.g. rapeseed crop). The DroplegUL application technique allows under-flower application in order to avoid the deposition of PPPs on rapeseed flowers, one of the most important flowering agricultural crops for bees in Europe. As a result, there is almost no exposure to PPPs for flower-visiting bees and other pollinator insects. The device has already been successfully tested in other flowering crops. The DroplegUL device is commercially available and almost all boom sprayers can be equipped with it.

**This year, special recognition will be granted to Marek NOWAKOWSKI for his lifetime contribution to wildlife and pollinator protection, and a special mention will be given to "Terras de Mondalva" for an integrated beekeeping project for rural development in Portugal.**

Join us to celebrate pollinators and biodiversity! Register here: [2017beeaward.eventbrite.com](http://2017beeaward.eventbrite.com)

**To learn more about the winning projects of the 2017 European Bee Award, visit: [www.europeanlandowners.org/awards/bee-award](http://www.europeanlandowners.org/awards/bee-award)**

For more information, you can contact: [ana.canomanuel@elo.org](mailto:ana.canomanuel@elo.org)

## Friend of Pollinators

This year, the jury of the European Bee Award has decided to bestow **special recognition** to a very unique contributor to the protection of pollinators and wildlife. Marek NOWAKOWSKI is an individual who has set himself the goal of "turning environmental science into practice". His expertise, skills and enthusiasm mean that he has made one of the single biggest contributions to farmland wildlife by a private individual. He is the author of many publications, including the book "Habitat creation and management for pollinators" edited by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH), which gathers his 35 years of field experience.

As an agronomist and wildlife enthusiast, he has helped many companies, governments and commercial organisations over the years to turn environmental research into farmland deliverables.



M. NOWAKOWSKI



## Combatting Invasive Alien Species in Pays de la Loire

Aline COULON, POLLENIZ

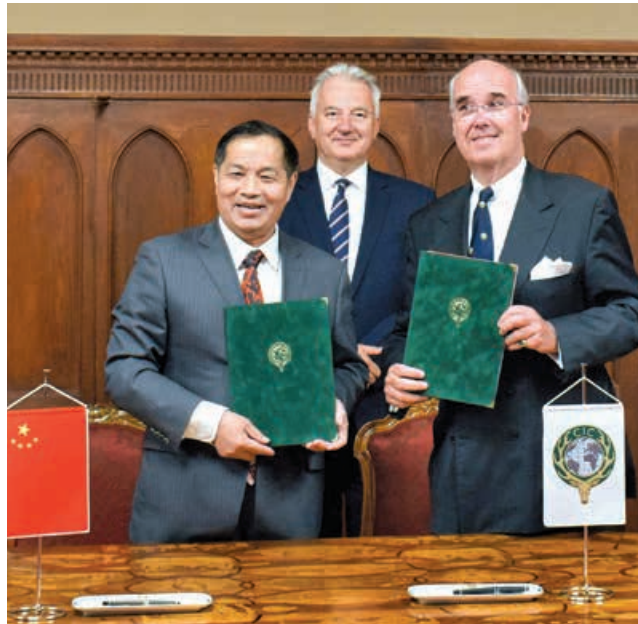
On the 11th and 12th of October, Humberto DELGADO ROSA and Myriam DUMORTIER from the European Commission's DG Environment, and Alice BUDNIOK and Pierre CRAHAY from the European Landowners' Organization attended an event hosted by POLLENIZ, a regional public health body, known as an 'Organisme à Vocation Sanitaire', in the Pays de la Loire region of northwestern France.

The event took place over two days and focused on the challenges associated with invasive alien species (IAS). The delegates spent the first day in the field in order to get a sense of the scale of the IAS problem that the region faces. Due to its location, this area of France acts as a gateway for international trade, and is home to a diverse range of species, making it an excellent case study.

The second day included a morning spent at the Regional Council of Pays de la Loire, where the President of POLLENIZ, Serge GELOT, and Maurice PERRION, Vice-President of the Regional Council, chaired a meeting entitled: "New health issues and the management of IAS".

According to Humberto DELGADO ROSA, "POLLENIZ could be an organizational model for Europe." He went on to praise the regional body for its extensive organizational capacity, in particular its ability to mobilize, coordinate and motivate its volunteers, stating that the organization's capacity for problem-solving, its innovativeness, and its determination were admirable. He added that POLLENIZ has successfully fostered dialogue with other established networks and that it demonstrates some of the best practices in the field.

To combat the negative consequences of IAS, and in particular the 49 species considered by the European Union to be of most concern, Member States are required to carry out a set of measures which include restrictions (monitoring of distribution routes and strict controls on the introduction of species), early detection and rapid eradication of IAS where identified, and the ongoing management of species that have already become widespread. Invasive alien species represent the second greatest cause of biodiversity loss worldwide and are estimated to cost the EU economy 12 billion euro each year.



Li QUINGWEN, Secretary General of CWCA, dr. Zsolt SEMJÉN, Deputy Prime Minister of Hungary, George AMAN, President of the CIC

## China Wildlife Conservation Association as future CIC member

On 21 September the China Wildlife Conservation Association (CWCA) and The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding during a special signing ceremony organised at the Hungarian Parliament Building. The major goal of the MoU is to promote collaboration in the field of wildlife conservation and hunting, and it furthermore contains a detailed framework of the cooperation between the organisations, and establishes a formal relationship with China.



The mission of the CWCA is to promote sustainable development of China's wildlife, and the major objective is to carry out educational and scientific activities, to promote academic communication and cooperation, and to conduct the relevant international wildlife conservation projects. The China Wildlife Conservation Association (CWCA) was founded by enthusiasts who love wildlife, and who work on wildlife conservation, scientific research, wildlife breeding and domestication, in 1983, as a nonprofit national organization under the framework of China Science Association.

George AMAN, President of the CIC highlighted that it was an important day, when the CIC made a step further into globalization, a step towards China. He added *"at the end of the day we must not forget that we are all here because we are not only friends and lovers of nature, but friends and lovers of sustainable use of nature, and hunting has a major role in it."*

The signing ceremony can be watched online on the CIC Facebook page.

CIC Team

# WE ♥ ♣ ♦ ♠

# EUROPE

EUROPA DECK



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You can rely on our craftsmanship and trustworthiness, we're innovation entrepreneurs looking for partners to cooperate with. We want to know your story and get involved. Thanks to 2,200 colleagues sharing their passion all over the world, we're the brand you don't know you love.

## To all friends it may concern; young, mature and wise. We ♥ our positive Europe in an open world.

Playing games brings people together. We believe it makes people socially and emotionally wiser. For over 250 years Cartamundi establishes emotional connections between people across all ages, gender, religion and beliefs.

For over 60 years (1958 Treaty of Rome) 28 from the 52 European countries have been supporting each other by sharing their strengths.

The European Union allows us to build strong economic partnerships, it concentrates judicial principles, expands agricultural techniques and resources, and stimulates technological progress and innovation.

Our beautiful melting pot of cultures gather people from various backgrounds, religions and convictions.

We share the belief that our difference make us stronger as we embrace all the beauty and creativity that it discloses.

Did you know playing cards brings people together? For the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, the world's leading board game manufacturer Cartamundi combines these values into a

special set of two decks of cards. The first deck visualizes historic UNESCO monuments, the second deck honours the artists, scientists, emperors and composers who contributed their skills to the European Union.

Think of Mozart's ♣ moving compositions, or contemplate where we would be without Nobel prize . winner Marie Curie's ♦ research regarding radioactivity. Mighty ♠ emperors conquered land and accepted defeat over Europe. Alexander the Great for example, made it his mission to spread the Greek culture and language. Let's also applaud the artists and the legacy they left behind.

Jan van Eyck ♥ has dedicated his life to oil painting which we remain to admire today.

We are proud to be part of the European Union, where we unite our values and continue to build long-lasting relationships with each other. Let us pursue our mission to share our human diversity, our abundant variety of cultures and our economic strengths.

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that joins history, actuality and reality for tomorrow through your smartphones. The sky is no more the limit.

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Let's be aware that our life prepares our eternity when we leave our human body, but that our spirit will stay forever.

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Free registration online at [www.forumforagriculture.com](http://www.forumforagriculture.com)

## Diary dates

### 7 - 8 November, Bydgoszcz, Poland

4th European Congress of Agribusiness Managers  
[www.kongresagrobiznesu.pl](http://www.kongresagrobiznesu.pl)

### 13 - 14 November, Naklo, Slovenia

FEAL 3rd transnational meeting  
<https://eka2feal.joomla.com/en/>

### 27 November, Brussels

15 year anniversary of the General Food Law, organized by the European Commission  
[https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/15-years-anniversary-general-food-law-2017-nov-27\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/15-years-anniversary-general-food-law-2017-nov-27_en)

### 28 November, Sofia

ELO General Assembly  
[www.elo.org](http://www.elo.org)

### 29 November, Sofia

Regional Forum for the Future of Agriculture  
[www.forumforagriculture.com](http://www.forumforagriculture.com)



### 5 December, European Parliament, Brussels

Bee Award Ceremony, organised by ELO and CEMA  
[www.elo.org](http://www.elo.org)

### 5 December, Brussels

European Biodiversity Conference, ELO yearly event  
[www.elo.org](http://www.elo.org)

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Let's increase our food supply without reducing theirs

the good growth plan

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