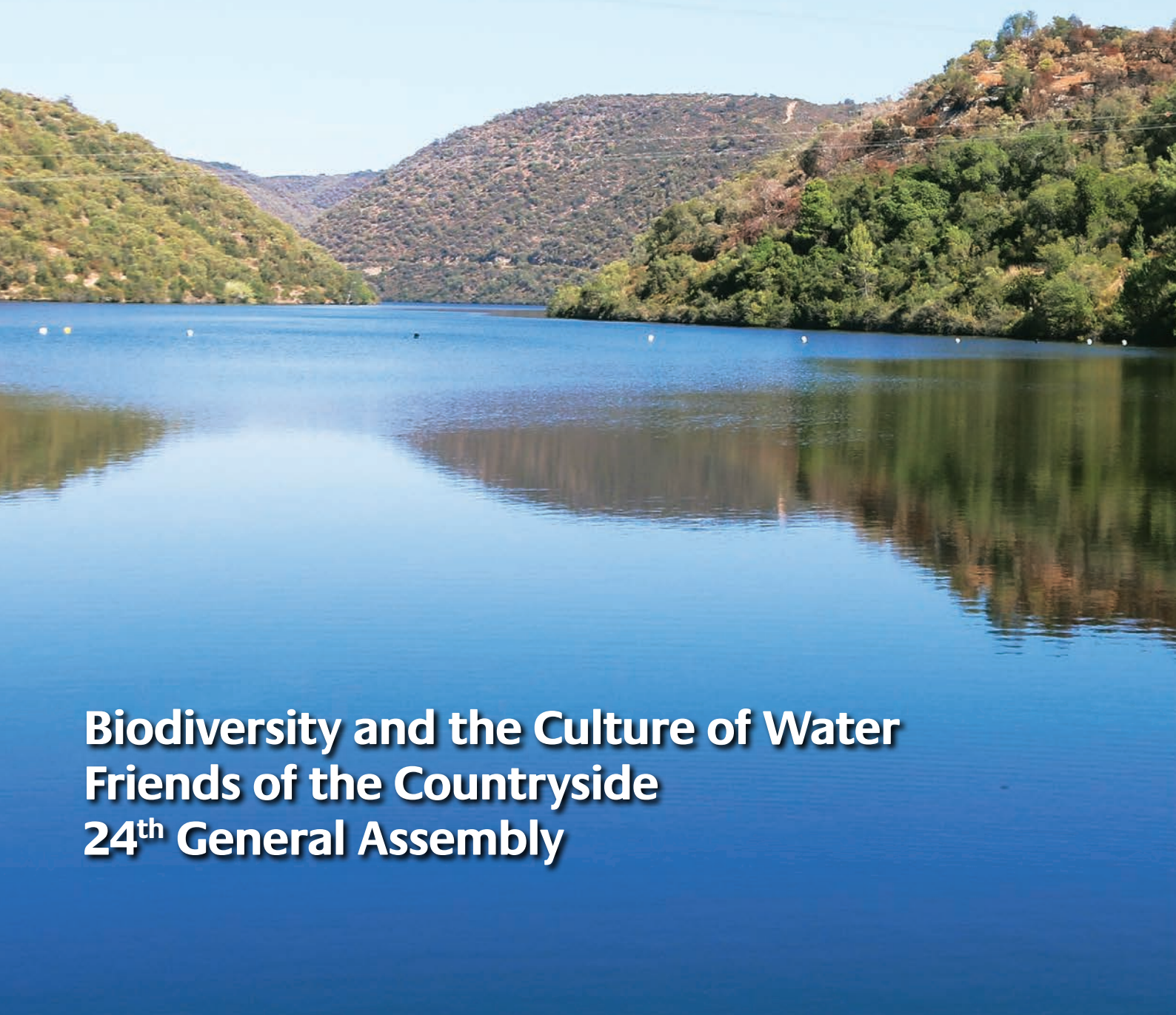


CountrySide

European Landowners' Organization

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Biodiversity and the Culture of Water
Friends of the Countryside
24th General Assembly

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Editorial

Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, *Secretary General*

We expect the French presidency to unlock the potential of land.

As we come to the end of 2021 and look towards 2022 and 2023 and the French presidency, we will be expecting it to unlock the potential of land-based sectors for an EU Green Deal when calling it to some pragmatism.

The European Green Deal introduces a new political narrative focused on climate, sustainability, and biodiversity across all policy areas while keeping to the message of growth strategy. Land-based activities can make a difference, mostly by contributing to its bio and circular economy and in achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Agricultural soils and forests provide precious sequestration and storage capacities of carbon, which can be further enhanced with appropriate management. Policies are now designed to enhance soil quality and the recycling of nutrients from waste, and all other measures to reduce emissions from farms. Initiatives and ideas such as carbon farming, farming for biodiversity, private conservation, and climate-related eco-schemes are just some of the ideas that are worth developing. Likewise, it is worth promoting different approaches for sustainable agriculture, regenerative agriculture to organic farming using tools like AgriLife. This is the first-ever pan-European Label process and alliance to reward and encourage farmers at the center of biodiversity while promoting quality production through best practices.

The Common Agricultural Policy remains a crucial tool to support such initiatives, even if other tools must be considered in parallel, going beyond subsidies.

In forestry, if we want to ensure carbon sequestration, storage in forest products and boost the substitution effect to replace fossil-based products and energy, we need forest management choices that are no less profitable than the present ones, while being considerably more stable and resistant to foreseeable environmental changes. Quite a challenging task when most of the attention is currently on conservation rather than Sustainable Forest Management that accelerates natural processes to provide services and goods that society values.

If we are serious about the urgency to push for systemic transformation to achieve goals set by the Paris Climate Agreement and the Glasgow Climate Pact, Sustainable Development Goals and Convention of Biological Diversity, we need to be equally serious about its scale and the tools available to achieve it. The scale of the challenges we face are global and therefore need to be considered within the global context in a way that prevents leakages and ensures the transition to a sustainable producing system - that is the way forward, not only in the long-term. Even if 30% of the MFF is to be dedicated to climate objectives, there is still a lot of uncertainty about how much can be used in what.

This uncertainty is not fully considered when designing the various new strategies that follow from the EU Green Deal. What is certain, however, is that more initiatives are to be funded from the same pot, with increased requirements but with little regard to their viability and cumulative impacts. Therefore, it is now more important than ever to focus on win-win solutions, generally anchored in knowledge and innovation.

We have no doubts that Minister Julien Denormandie and his team are dedicated to developing the needed solutions.



Biodiversity and the Culture of Water

Friends of the Countryside 24th General Assembly

In the words of Friends of the Countryside (FCS) president, Michael SALM ZU SALM, 'What a Joy!' to finally gather together, after a 2 year absence, for the FCS 24th General Assembly this October in Córdoba, Spain. The FCS GA is the opportunity for members to gather in person and exchange ideas and practices on the various tools of farm management, this time from an Andalusian perspective.

Sophy Smits van OYEN – MALTZOFF, FCS



Antonio MELGAREJO, Luis PLANAS, Nicolás de BARI MILLAN CRUZ, Thierry de L'ESCAILLE

The General Assembly began with a moment of silence for members who had passed away with a special mention for FCS founder Johan NORDENFALK. All 19 new members were approved and welcomed as were the three new Board members: Caroline NORDENFALK BIELKE representing members in Sweden, Ilonka JANKOVICH for Hungary and Galina PEYCHEVA-MITEVA for Bulgaria. Thanks were expressed to Jack HANBURY TENISON and Ross MURRAY for the Study Tour in Wales which will be followed by another next year in Ireland. The new updated FCS and Welcoming Estates Websites were announced.

FCS General Secretary Thierry DE L'ESCAILLE went on to present the work of the ELO in a post-pandemic world of climate change, the Green Deal and payment capping. He asks the EU for realistic targets and then presented the many projects that ELO is involved in. Alain SCRIBAN introduced the AgriLife Award which will be officially launched in December and will recognise and reward farmers.

The Conference with the theme Biodiversity and the Culture of Water opened with an introduction by FCS Board member Emilio NAVARRO-MARTINEZ of this wonderful region of natural biodiversity outlining also the recent problems set off by nat-

ural catastrophes. Daniel CALLEJA CRE-SPO, Director General, Directorate General for Legal Service at the European Commission made a video presentation to stress the importance of biodiversity and the role of watering it. Professor José Luis GARCÍA RODRIGUEZ from Universidad Politécnica de Madrid presented the topic of Spanish Forestry conservation.

The special guest at the conference was Luis PLANAS, Spanish minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Mr. PLANAS praised Spanish production and exports and admitted that EU targets for the Green Deal are ambitious. He insisted that three elements are needed: "Time, Money, Engagement" and that "Sustainability does not exist without profitability". He went on to thank the General Assembly stating that forces must be united to achieve objectives. He addressed members saying "You are the key to our future".

The Anders WALL is awarded to those who have made a special contribution to the rural environment within the EU. The 2020 prize was awarded for the last time by Åke BARKLUND and Caroline NORDENFALK BIELKE to winner Guts- und Forstbetrieb Wilfersdorf, for the management of the Prince of Liechtenstein Estate in Austria. They aim to preserve the natural and cultural heritage of the area. Sustainability is one of the foundation's basic principles and economic success must be in harmony with ecological and social goals.

The day finished with an unforgettable gala dinner under the stars in the gardens of the Alcázar de los Reyes Católicos where 3 Wildlife Estates Labels were awarded to the Navarro family and the Young Friends FAMIGRO Award was presented with thanks to sponsor FCS Board Member Karl GROTFELD.



Farm and Land Management Visits

The following day, members visited various farms and estates in the region to witness first hand the various concepts of land and water management. These included the cotton, olive and almond export production at Dafisa and Rivera estates, organic wine production at Bodegas Alvear, water irrigation of citrus trees thanks to huge water tanks at San Javier Estate and Cork oak at El Asiento. Members also visited El Guijarrillo Estate where purebred Spanish horses are bred and El Rincon Bajo Estate where Iberian ham is produced.

Friends of the Countryside Pretour in Andalusia : October 4 to 7, 2021

Prior to the General Assembly, over 40 members arrived in Sevilla at the Casas de la Juderia hotel, a veritable labyrinth of 27 traditional houses, for an exclusive 4 day pretour. Members were excited to finally meet again and ready to discover the fascinating history, culture and architecture of Sevilla followed by visits to various private

estates. Cultural visits in Sevilla included the Palacio Arzobispal, residence for bishops since the Reconquista of 1251, the royal palace Real Alcázar with its extraordinary mix of Mudejar and Christian architecture and the 16th C. Cathedral of Saint Mary, the largest at the time with its bell tower, the Giralda, which originally served as a minaret.

On the third day Friends set off for Jerez de la Frontera to begin visits to estates and production facilities. First stop was at the Fuente Rey, home of the prestigious Bohórquez bulls bred for the bullfighting ring and purebred horses. Fermín BOHÓRQUEZ DOMEQ, an ex-rejoneador (mounted bullfighter) organised a nail-biting show where bull, horse and rider form a dance of terrific power and expertise. At the Hacienda la Peñuela, also owned by Fermín, the intensive olive oil harvest was in full swing with impressive machines shaking and collecting the olives in record time and quantity.

Visits were of course made to visit and taste (!) Jerez at Bodegas Fundador, voted best sherry in the world in 2019 and at Bodegas Tradición where owner Helena RIVERO also guided members to admire the impressive 15th to 19th C. art collection. Members then set off for Las Lomas to

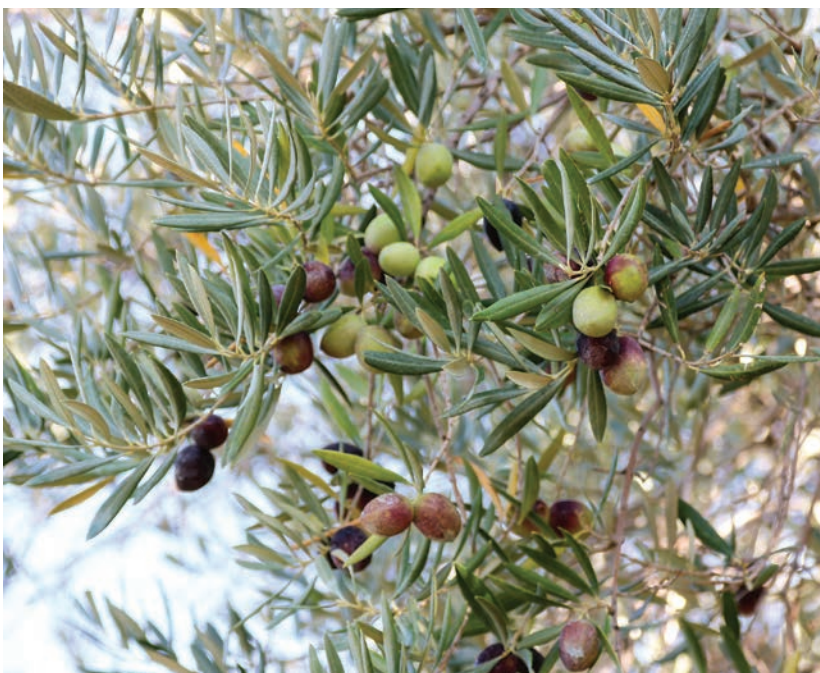
witness the impressive organic crop management in full respect of the environment and learn about the history of the estate.

In the evenings Friends were treated to a warm welcome first at the Palacio de los Marqueses de Salinas hosted by the owner Bruno SALINAS and then at the Palacio Bailen where French owner Pierre MOINET joined. In Jerez de la Frontera, Marta RODRIQUEZ VERA welcomed us to Palacio Domecq, home of the Domecq family since 1885. The warm evenings meant members could sit in the open courtyard and enjoy the exquisite dinners. We thank all the hosts for their kind hospitality and for the visits of their private rooms and art collections.

Friends will gather once again for the **25th Jubilee General Assembly next year in Evora, Portugal from June 9 to June 12**. A post tour will take place after in the Azores.

If you require any additional information do not hesitate to contact Jehanne de DORLODOT-VERHAEGEN at coordination@elo.org

For more information please visit: www.friendsofthecountryside.org and www.welcomingstateswebsite.com



The FCS president Michael ZU SALM SALM, FCS General Secretary Thierry DE L'ESCAILLE and all the members of the Friends of the Countryside express their special thanks to the Spanish Board members Antonio and Mary MELGAREJO, Emilio and Mariela NAVARRO-MARTÍNEZ and Iván and Isabel DE ARTEAGA DEL ALCÁZAR as well as Eloy and Ana MARTINEZ SAGRERA, Francisco RUIZ DE LA TORRE, Gabriel and Jasna-Góra LODARES, Carlos OTERO, Claudia and Marta NAVARRO and also all the hosts for their great support in the preparation of this exceptional General Assembly.

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NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE



Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, Janusz WOJCIECHOWSKI, Tom VILSACK, Paolo DE CASTRO, João PACHECO, Mark TITTERINGTON



Transatlantic cooperation: The path to sustainability

Collaboration and innovation are key: that is the view of our expert panel on how the US and EU can tackle climate change through making agriculture more sustainable while providing enough food for a growing population. It was the topic of the Forum for the Future of Agriculture event in Brussels where the panel debated the new transatlantic cooperation agreement between the US and the EU, launched on November 3.

There were many questions around the new agreement. How do the US and Europe see it? How can it work in practice? What about trade barriers and imports? And why is this the right time?

Summary by Liz WILSON

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Dialogue is needed now

Climate change is the top issue facing agriculture – and a transatlantic dialogue is needed now more than ever to enable US and EU efforts towards climate-friendly farming. Mark TITTERINGTON, our moderator, opened the debate saying: “*Such a dialogue can help drive the agenda on agriculture, enable agriculture to meet the challenges that it faces in relation to farm profitability, productivity, greater resilience, sustainability and particularly the environment, and enable agriculture to respond to and mitigate some of the challenges of climate change.*”

Joao PACHECO, Senior Fellow at Farm Europe, highlighted: “*The US and the EU share agreement that it’s urgent to mitigate climate change and adapt to the consequences.*”

Common goals and challenges

The new cooperation rests on the US and EU having common goals on agriculture and the climate. They may take different pathways to reach them, said US Secretary of Agriculture Tom VILSACK, and the new platform is a place to exchange knowledge and information and to promote mutual understanding and trust on the journey. The US is committed to developing and deploying new technologies, new practices and new methods in agricultural production: “*the US stands behind the importance of science-based, data-driven decision making... we must also guard against trade barriers and restrictions that are not based on science.*”

Both continents have many challenges and opportunities in common, said EU Commissioner for Agriculture Janusz WOJCIECHOWSKI, so it is vital to share knowledge and solutions. This common ground

includes farm size; lack of digital connectivity in rural areas; and the challenge of building a more resilient food chain after the pandemic exposed the vulnerability of food systems on both continents. Europe will learn vital lessons as it transitions to greener food production under the Farm to Fork strategy, and it is important to share this knowledge with the US more fluently than before, said Mr WOJCIECHOWSKI. “*As two of the largest agri-food producers, importers and exporters in the world, the US and the EU are in a strong position to lead this change.*”

The right moment?

But why is this the right time for this collaboration? And what signals do our panelists hope the transatlantic cooperation will send? The US and EU have a responsibility to step up to the climate challenge

and the challenge of feeding an ever-increasing world population, and do it in a sustainable way, said Mr VILSACK. And Mr WOJCIECHOWSKI added: *"Like in the song, tomorrow will be too late."* He said that in one decade, Europe has lost four million family farmers because they simply could not compete in a culture of intensive agricultural production. Policy-makers need to give farmers' families the chance to develop data-driven farms and sustainable agriculture such as organic production – all without reducing food production.

Agriculture – part of the solution?

The panel looked at the fundamental question of whether agriculture is the problem, or whether it can and should be part of the solution to climate change. Mr VILSACK was clear: agriculture can gain quick wins. *"The key is being able to measure and quantify the results that we obtain from climate smart agricultural practices and then to be able to translate that into some kind of market opportunity for farmers that creates a financial incentive,"* he said. Mr WOJCIECHOWSKI highlighted carbon farming, saying it was vital to support farmers to introduce data from sustainable agricultural practices. He also said short supply chains are crucial to agriculture's contribution on the climate.

The key question is not what the goals are, but how agriculture on both continents can get there through innovation. This was the view of Paolo DE CASTRO, Member of the European Parliament, Committees for Agriculture and for International Trade. More time and money needs to go into considering new technologies, such as gene-editing to improve plant breeding, he said.

View on US farmers

Are US farmers and ranchers interested in embracing the sustainability agenda – and are they able? With an emphatic 'Yes', Mr VILSACK said he expected to see *"very significant action"* from US agriculture, including farmers and ranchers. *"There has been a sea change in the US agricultural community to the point that farmers and the food system have joined together in an alliance to promote the need for large-scale commitments of demonstration projects and pilots to really learn more about exactly how climate-smart agriculture works and to quantify and measure the results of it,"* he continued.

The difficult topics

In the past, collaboration between the US and the EU has not always been smooth, said Mr TITTERINGTON. How would the cooperation agreement enable progress on topics such as trade, or R&D? Mr WOJCIECHOWSKI's view was that having the platform would actually help to avoid difficulties such as in the past, for example on tariffs. And Mr VILSACK said there will be innumerable ways in which the platform can allow for meaningful knowledge exchange. He highlighted a sensor technology that allows farmers to identify crop areas that do not need any fertilizer, asking: *"Is there an opportunity to work collaboratively to make that kind of sensor technology available and affordable to farmers across Europe and across the US?"*

Dairy and livestock with zero methane?

The prospect of livestock farming without massive methane emissions was brought

up by Mr VILSACK. Significantly reducing the methane emissions connected to livestock farming was a better option for the world than curtailing production, he said. Technology could offer ways to reduce and re-use methane – for example, feed additives to cut the amount of methane produced by the cow, and the ability to capture methane to convert it to fuel. *"The US has dairy farmers who believe that with the right kind of technology they can get to net zero in a matter of years,"* he said.

How to engage consumers?

Educating consumers was highlighted by Mr DE CASTRO: *"The problem is to try to explain to our consumers, to our public opinion that we need more science... good technologies, innovations."* He was optimistic about the acceptance of technology, saying that because of the pandemic people have become more aware of science. Farmers also have a responsibility to educate, and it needs to start with young people, said Mr VILSACK.

Closing the event, Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, Secretary General of the ELO, said that common and ambitious goals on will require a constant exchange of knowledge and information, along with common standards. *"By setting out the common objectives and intent... we are perhaps taking the most important step."*

Have you enjoyed this taster of the discussion?

Then watch the full event on our website www.forumforagriculture.com





Rose O'DONOVAN, Erik MATHIJS, Tassos HANIOTIS, Sébastien TREYER, Nathalie CHAZE, on the screen Dik KRUIJTHOFF

Can the Green Deal deliver on food, climate and biodiversity?

Our panel of experts give their views



Summary by Liz WILSON

Our panel event on November 23 tackled the thorny question of whether the European Green Deal and Farm to Fork strategies are on track to address the complex interconnected needs of food, climate and biodiversity.

Moderated by Rose O'DONOVAN, Editor-in-Chief AGRA FACTS, the event was both lively and timely, coming on the day that the European Parliament voted to approve the Common Agricultural Policy Reform proposed by the European Commission.

Can the goals create a paradigm shift?

Are the targets and goals of the Green Deal and Farm to Fork strategies the right targets and the right goals? And do they represent the integrated approach needed to bring about a paradigm shift? These were the questions addressed by Professor Erik MATHIJS, KU Leuven, in his opening remarks as he reflected on the first 18 months of the Farm to Fork strategy.

Professor MATHIJS catchily talked about 'BHAGs', or 'big, hairy, audacious goals.' But a major critique of the Common Agricultural Policy, Farm to Fork and biodiversity strategies is that they do not sufficiently take outcomes into account, he

said. The goals were "not about greenhouse gases or human health impacts or biodiversity impacts of pesticide use or nitrogen access... rather, the focus is on inputs, use of pesticides and fertilizers, and one specific production method, organic," he said.

Professor MATHIJS touched on a vast range of issues that could impact the goals – from lack of data to trade-offs that must be made – he concluded: "The Green Deal strategies do represent a possible paradigm shift and integrated approach that acknowledges that for change to happen, the whole system is needed, including consumption and trade. But this approach is not well reflected in the chosen targets, nor maybe even in the proposed actions, particularly in the area of consumption and trade." He urged attendees to read the forthcoming reflection paper coming out of participatory sessions with 44 stakeholders - "a tremendous effort to grasp the full complexity of the food system".

"What's important is the direction of change"

Ambitious goals are not a problem: this was the perspective of Tassos HANIOTIS, he

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Director & Acting Deputy Director-General DG AGRI, European Commission. The Farm to Fork strategy “raises the bar very high, raises the bar in many areas where you can raise valid concerns and questions.” What is important is not so much the initial speed of change but the direction of that change, he said. “If you start on a path where you cannot turn back, acceleration of change will come.”

Mr HANIOTIS highlighted the limitations of recent studies and scenarios which underpin the targets and goals. While they are based on existing information, there is always a part of the picture missing. He said it has been a particular struggle to understand what happens with consumer behaviour, and it is a case of taking what information is available and making certain assumptions.

“You can’t negotiate with science”

Coming back to the targets, Sébastien TREYER, Director, IDDRI-Institute for Sustainable Development & International Relations, pointed out that they are set by science, and are based on what is needed on climate and biodiversity to ensure a safe operating space for humanity. “You can’t really negotiate with science,” he commented. But what you can negotiate is the timeline and pathways to get to those targets. Within the timeline set, he felt that 2030 would be the right moment to assess whether goals and actions have triggered the structural changes that are necessary to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Some of those structural changes will be “heavy” – such as certain sectors having to decrease volumes and look for value growth rather than volume growth. He gave examples of how this has been tackled in France – but also mentioned lack of data such as on jobs, incomes and economic processes in the processing industry.

Who bears the burden of change?

Turning to who will make change happen, Nathalie CHAZE said that the burden of change is not only on farmers. Ms CHAZE, Director, Food Sustainability, International Relations, Directorate General for Health and Food Safety, European Commission, emphasized: “The success of the challenge really depends on challenge at every step of the food chain.” She noted that Farm to Fork puts a lot of emphasis on changing demand – and this can be done “because we know that consumers want to contribute to the transition”. The main goal is to successfully nudge consumers towards sustainable diets. There are a number of initiatives under way, such as nutrient profiles, mandatory original indication and labelling. The strongest influence on consumers comes from retailers, manufacturers and traders – and the EU will nudge them as well, she said. Success depends on a combination of voluntary regulatory activity at EU, national and local level, because regulation alone cannot change behavior and habits, and “we really want to flag this is a shared responsibility”.

View from a sustainable farm

Amidst the discussion by policy experts, a change of pace gave our guests a real-time view from the farm.

Novifarm in the Netherlands is a partnership of arable farmers cultivating 800 hectares. Sustainable agriculture practices are used to grow important export crops like potatoes for the French fries market and onions, as well as winter wheat and winter barley. Dik KRUIJTHOFF, Chairman of the supervisory board, CZVA, joined by live video link to demonstrate how sustainability works the field. Novifarm was an early adopter of precision farming, back in 2010.

And it is proven to work – after almost 12 years of precision agriculture, combined with practices like sustainable crop rotation, the farm has achieved a 10% decrease in fertilizer use. Mr KRUIJTHOFF also voiced one of the many concerns of European farmers. What will be the impact of pesticide reduction targets? Will rising costs mean that US farmers can grow potatoes more efficiently and so take a larger share of the market?

Germany’s way forward

To close the event, attendees were given insights into how Germany sees the future. Dr. Peter STROHSCHNEIDER, Chairman of the German Commission on the Future of Agriculture, introduced Germany’s commitments, laid out in on their recent report. The conclusion: it is possible to balance diverging interests sensibly and fairly, even in particularly difficult areas.

The goal is to aim for a market-based greening of the agrofood system – but it is essential to make the risks of the transformation manageable, provide planning certainties and increase farmers’ acceptance of the transformation, he said.

Ecologically responsible practices need to be economically attractive and economically successful. And while the measures envisaged would exceed currently available public finances, the transformation would cost much less than keeping the status quo.

*Have you enjoyed this taster of the discussion?
Then watch the full event on our website
www.forumforagriculture.com*



Principal outcomes of COP26 and what needs to be done in the months leading to COP27

COP26 took place in Glasgow from 31 October to 13 November 2021, and received the most media coverage of any COP yet, including COP21 in Paris in 2015. Here we summarise the current situation in terms of climate policy, set out the principal outcomes of COP26, and consider what needs to be done in the months leading to COP27, which will take place in the autumn of 2022 in Sharm El-Sheikh.

by Michael SAYER who attended COP26 on behalf of ELO

Summary of the present situation

Taking into account Nationally Determined Commitments (NDCs) made before or at COP26, the Earth is still on course for an estimated 2.4 degrees of warming above pre-industrial levels compared with the Paris target of 1.5 degrees. Warming of 1.1 degrees has already occurred.

NDCs are principally deficient in their short-term targets. To limit warming to 1.5 degrees would require 45 per cent cuts in the 2010 levels of emissions by 2030, equivalent to two years of current annual emissions. It is now widely thought that it will be necessary to bring forward net zero from 2050 to 2040.

National Net Zero target dates

Most countries have adopted the 2050 date for achieving Net Zero, although 58 still have to set a date. A few small Asian and African countries are currently at net zero. Some countries have set a target date earlier than 2050: Bangladesh (2030), Maldives (2030), Finland (2035), Antigua and Austria (2040), Iceland (2040), Germany (2045), Nepal (2045), Sweden (2045). However, Brazil, China, Indonesia, Nigeria, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka and Ukraine have only set 2060, and India (as usual an outlier) 2070 (but with half electricity being met from renewables by 2030, and a 45 per cent reduction in carbon intensity).

Glasgow Climate Pact

Revision of NDCs

Parties to the UNFCCC have been asked to bring new or updated NDCs, revisiting and strengthening their 2030 targets as necessary to align with the Paris Agreement, to COP27 meeting in Sharm El-Sheikh in 2022. They are specifically invited to address further actions to reduce by 2030 non-carbon gases including methane. Be-

ginning with COP27, there will also be annual high-level ministerial round tables on pre-2030 ambition.

Coal phase-down

Article 36 calls on Parties to transition towards low-energy systems and scale up clean power and energy efficiency, including 'accelerating efforts towards the phase-down of unabated coal power and phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies'. Famously, the draft read 'phase-out of unabated coal power' until the last-minute, and highly criticised, interventions by India and China. Blind-sided and exhausted, the Chairman gave way and accepted 'phase-down'.

State of finance

Only 80 per cent of the USD 100 billion in annual finance agreed by developed countries for mitigation and sustainable development for developing countries at COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009 had been realised by the opening of COP26 (the target date was 2020). With the Japanese contribution of up to USD 10 billion over five years, the figure could be met in 2022, but may not be achieved until 2023.

The Pact also stressed the need for adaptation finance and urged developed countries collectively to double their funding for the Adaptation Fund by 2025 (based on the 2019 level).

Some progress was made on loss and damage in developing countries and both Scotland and Wallonia provided dedicated funds.

Completion of Paris Rulebook

Although this has been agreed, the absence of an upper limit on trading offsets is a matter for concern. However, 2 per cent of issued credits each year will be automatically cancelled.

Multilateral pledges not part of the Glasgow Pact

These pledges in many cases go beyond current NDCs and an analysis published by IEA has calculated that, if implemented, they could reduce warming to 1.8 degrees.

Deforestation pledge

Some 110 countries pledged to end deforestation by 2030 (including EU, UK, US, Brazil, Canada, China, Indonesia, Australia but *not* India).

Methane pledge

Over 100 countries pledged to reduce methane emissions by 30 per cent by 2030 (including EU, UK, US, Brazil, Canada, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Ukraine but *not* China, India or Russia). Currently about 30 per cent of methane emissions come from livestock, 25 per cent from the oil and gas sector, and 15 per cent from landfills. It is thought that the last two sources could be reduced by 75 and 80 per cent respectively, although there is a wide range of uncertainty when it comes to livestock management measures.

About 0.5 degrees of warming so far is attributed to methane, and its atmospheric life of 11.8 years and high Global Warming Potential in relation to CO2 make it an attractive target.

Quit coal

A pledge to quit coal was signed by some 40 countries (including Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, UK).

John KERRY subsequently stated that the US would end the use of coal by 2030.

As an example in practice, an agreement was reached for South Africa to receive USD 8.5 billion from EU, UK, US to stop use of coal.



© European Union, 2021

There was also a pledge to stop aiding fossil fuel use in other countries

A Declaration on Zero Emission Cars and Vans was signed by a smallish number of countries, 45 cities and provinces, and 11 manufacturers, including BYD (China), Ford, General Motors, Mercedes, Jaguar Land Rover, Mercedes Benz and Volvo *but not* Volkswagen, BMW, Toyota.

There was an unexpected US/China agreement to work together, including on methane.

There is a High Ambition Coalition to revise NDCs for 2022.

What now?

The negotiations for Sharm El-Sheikh need to integrate the new pledges made at Glasgow into revised NDCs, and raise ambition by the equivalent of an additional 0.3 degree. The USD 1000 billion funding package needs to be completed, with additional funds for adaptation. In particular, it would seem obvious, and essential, to buy out the Indian coal industry in a deal similar to that for South Africa.

Nevertheless, it is hard to avoid an analogy with Europe in the years up to 1914. Without delivery, the Earth is set on a course for dangerous climate change. Build Back Better needs to follow the Infrastructure Act. Fundamental is the need to empower civil society to deliver in the face of perverse governments. Both the Prince of Wales and Barack OBAMA, rather tangentially, made this point.

Mitigation by agriculture, forestry and land management

Methane and livestock

Emissions of Nitrous Oxide and Methane from EU/UK agriculture plateaued ten years ago. So far, recommended measures have concentrated on, e.g., diet and manure management. However, the methane cycle is less tractable than the carbon cycle, and there is a wide range of uncertainty as to their effectiveness. The Global Methane Assessment (UNEP, 2021) estimated their capacity for reducing annual emissions as anywhere between 4 and 42 Mt CH₄.

Given that on a 20-year Global Warming Potential, 74 per cent of these emissions expressed as CO₂ equivalent are methane (emissions from cattle being 54 per cent), it is hard to see how European agriculture could significantly reduce emissions without a reduction in cattle numbers, or why agriculture should continue to have a free ride. Although this is not specified in the methane pledge, it is clear that this debate must now be opened, and ELO needs to explore the policy implications of supporting a transition to lower numbers of cattle in line with permanent pasture.

Forestry and harvest

ELO is already aware of voices opposed to the harvest of timber. The origins of this issue lie in the developing world, where although forest that is felled may be regenerated, the speed of growth can only in the long term make good the losses from harvest.

By not accounting for harvest but only for deforestation, the present accounting system assumes a robust and sustainable management system for forests, similar to the forest inventory system long practised in central and northern Europe. In many countries, this does not exist, and ELO needs to advocate the normalisation of Forest Inventories where timber is harvested.

Markets for sequestration

Markets for sequestration depend on additionality, measurement and permanence (verification). This is possible, principally for post-1990 afforestation, for timber in woody biomass, where there is a Forest Inventory, but it is more problematic with soil carbon. We should be aware that measures to increase sequestration in soil are more likely to be suitable for public than market support.

The EU has promised a carbon metric (expected in late 2022).

Conclusions

As climate policy moves from cleaning up the energy sector into systemic, economy-wide mode, the challenges, both for mitigation and adaptation, have never been greater. Climate has reached a tipping point and the current decade is expected to prove decisive. The year ahead will be especially critical if policymakers are to rise to these challenges in time.

'Coup d'Pousse' and 'Connected scales' take the big prizes at the VIII edition of the European Bee Award.



In a ceremony hosted by **MEP Franc BOGOVIC in Brussels on December 7**, the VIII edition of the European Bee Award acknowledges the great commitment of private and public organisations, as well as the involvement of the research community, to enhance pollinators' wellbeing and support bee-friendly farming practices in Europe.

The 2021 edition received 28 applications from 12 different European countries. ELO and CEMA were delighted to provide the prizes to this year's winners:

- **Category 'Land management practices'**: the winner is **'Coup d'Pousse'**, a project by **Réseau Biodiversité pour les Abeilles**. With the participatory action of melliferous fields sponsorship, farmers can register to benefit from seeds to sow flower strips in fallow land in spring, and intercrops in summer. Beekeepers can also register to get in touch with farmers who implanted floral resources in their department, to set up their hives there.
- **Category 'Innovative and technological solutions'**: the winner is **'Connected scales'**, an initiative by **FDSEA Ile-de-France (Departmental Federation**

of Farmers Unions in the region Ile-de-France). This project aims to allow the best living conditions for bees by protecting them from phytosanitary treatments periods. Besides agricultural practices adaptation to bee protection, this project also implements flowering fallows to make them available to pollinators.

In addition, the 'Special Mention of the Jury' was bestowed to **'Smartomizer H30 protecting bees by reducing the pesticides use'**, by **Pulverizadores Fede**. The Smartomizer H30 is an integrated pest management system that reduces negative effects on pollinators and also protects biodiversity by reducing the environmental impact of the high value crops protection task by carrying out precise and eco-responsible treatments.

Robert KONRAD, Adviser for Nature Capital, Directorate General for Environment intervened at the event: *'I am very glad to see that ELO are actually acutely aware of the challenges and are actively contributing to the solutions and together we hope that we will be able to deliver a strong EU action for pollinators, food security and of that nature.'*

Daniel CALEJJA CRESPO, Director General, Directorate General for Legal Service at the European Commission said: *'Land managers who champion good farming environments for pollinators can act as pollinator ambassadors to inspire change and to support their peers to follow the same route. This is why I would like to thank them for all the work they are doing and to call upon land managers to continue contributing to this process. Just before I give the prize, I have a final message for you, bees have a reputation for being industrious, hardworking and team players. I think we should learn more from them, and we should behave more like them, because protecting them is the best way to ensure our own future on this planet.'*

Thierry de L'ESCAILLE, Secretary General of the ELO underlined: *'Without our bees and other pollinators we would not have our beautiful countrysides and landscapes. That's why these projects matter so much. Ensuring rich biodiversity is a crucial part of sustainable land management. Promoting and rewarding the support of our pollinators is the least that we can do'.*

Gilles DRYANCOUR, Honorary President of CEMA, and member of the Jury added:

12



Daniel CALLEJA CRESPO addresses participants. On the panel, from left to right: Gilles DRYANCOUR, Thierry de L'ESCAILLE, Robert KONRAD, Franc BOGOVIČ.



Pulverizadores Fede receives the Special Mention of the Jury for their 'Smartomizer H30 protecting bees by reducing the pesticides use'.



Project 'Coup d'Pousse' by Réseau Biodiversité pour les Abeilles receives the Land management practices prize.



Project Connected scales', by FDSEA Ile-de-France receives the Innovative and technological solutions prize.

"This year, 2021, was a remarkable year, as all the projects were of exceptional quality. This shows how difficult the jury's choice was. However, after lengthy discussions it was decided to award the project "Connected Scales" which offers many analogies with precision agriculture, meaning:

the collection of data (by weighing the hives), the interconnection of these data for decision making (the programming of spraying operations). All of this leading to sustainable optimization; hence a project that should meet the expectations of European farmers and beekeepers.'

To learn more about this award please visit:

- www.europeanlandowners.org
- www.cema-agri.org
- [#EUBeeAward](https://twitter.com/EUBeeAward)



Kasteelhoeve Wange awarded the prestigious "Baillet Latour Environment Prize 2021"



The "Baillet Latour Prize for the Environment 2021" was awarded to Kasteelhoeve de Wange on October 20. This prize is awarded every two years in Flanders to an estate that excels in sustainable and ecological nature management. The estate was awarded for the implementation of a unique and exemplary project to an 18th century farmhouse surrounded by 14 hectares of land to be rehabilitated.

"Receiving the Baillet Latour Prize for the Environment 2021 is for us the crowning achievement of the projects we have set up over the last few years together with our partners", stated Philip VAN KELST.

Kasteelhoeve Wange strives to create links. Links between 'agriculture and nature', as well as 'man and nature', 'horse and nature' and 'man and horse'. In the meadows and orchards, alongside the

horses, there is also the cattle of the De Vaerendriech farm. This allows us to offer excellent quality meat along with fresh vegetables from the garden and fruit juice from the orchard. Almost all the products consumed at the Kasteelhoeve are supplied by local partners. The watchword in the restoration of the farm and the implementation of the concept was 'sustainability'. This has led to several national and international awards for sustainable management and responsible entrepreneurship.

In the last three years, this evolution has been accelerated thanks to the drive of Valentijn DOCQUIER of Viva Concept, a landscape gardener specialised in the development of a landscape integrating animal welfare, aesthetics and the environment. It soon became clear that his work would not be limited to horse pastures alone but could be developed holistically across the entire estate.

For more information : www.fondsbailletlatour.com

The first YFCS gathering since 2019 – finally together again!

From olives to Arabic architecture- this year the Young Friends explored the heart of Andalucía. We broke the record with fifty members from eight different countries, all coming together in Córdoba. YFCS members were also inspired by several local business cases.



Ebba LEWENHAUPT, Lorenzo TARSIS, Alberto HERMOSEL

We miss the Andalusian sun! We miss it because the YFCS decided to meet on the second weekend of October in Córdoba, southern Spain, in what was an unprecedented event for the association. 50 Young Friends joined the members of the Friends of the Countryside.

On this occasion, our President, Marie-Christine SCHÖNBORN, presented to the audience the current situation of YFCS and the projects for the future. Seven different countries are represented in the Board and as of today there are 265 members. YFCS has various goals - preparing young land-owners on one side, discuss employment opportunities on the other, be a platform of interaction for those who feel close to the countryside, to sustainability concerns, food and agriculture.

Our President, and the whole General Assembly, thanked Karl GROTEFELT for supporting and sponsoring the FAMIGRO Award, assigned this year to Alfonso CHICO DE GUZMÁN for his project named “La Junquera Regenerative Farm and Entrepreneurship HUB”. Alfonso has in fact been managing the family farm alone for 4 years now and has implemented regenerative



The FAMIGRO award ceremony 2021

farming practices. La Junquera is also a hub for young agricultural entrepreneurs, bee-keepers and now also a natural wine producer.

The Award ceremony took place during Friday evening’s gala dinner which was another opportunity to come together in a stunning location: the *Jardines del Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos*. We were treated to such a picturesque and special sight to see and enjoy during, and after, sunset. The Spanish vibes from the live Flamenco music and dance at the end of the evening invaded our souls and soon the whole *Jardines* turned into a dance floor, and a party we’ll remember for a long time!

But the YFCS never stop, and at 9am on Saturday it was time to head to the Castillo Almodóvar del Río, about half an hour away from Córdoba for our very own Assembly. Eva MOREJÓN introduced the Young Friends to the history of this mighty place, a blend of Christian and Muslim architectural heritage. Inside the castle, Jose María HERRERO FERNANDEZ DE MESA introduced us to the world of hounds, the Andalusian Podenco in this particular case. An opportunity for all of us to get acquainted with Spanish hunting practices, with Andalusian dog breeding tradition and land.

Right after we were introduced to Juan Antonio PARRILLA GONZÁLEZ, Marketing Director at Picualia, located in Bailén (Jaén), a top-quality extra virgin olive oil. He introduced the company and spoke about the possible future, not only of Picualia, but also of the industry, what the trends are in the market, how they are trying to differentiate themselves and the great benefits of high-quality Spanish EVO oil.

Then it was time to move to El Paralejo Estate hosted by Claudia NAVARRO LÓPEZ, who (together with her family) so generously opened their home for all of us. From drinks under beautiful trees, to a typical Andalusian lunch with *migas*, *chorizo* and *huevo*, Andalucía never felt more real. The moment everyone was probably looking forward to the most came, the *capea*. A traditional bullfight to train and test the skills not only of the *Torero* but of young bulls. The fearless Young Friends were invited to the arena, and what a performance!

The YFCS Board is already looking forward to and inviting all its members to join the next General Assembly in Evora, Portugal, in June 2022.

We hope to see you there!

Discover the new simplified website!
Many new estates added!

Follow us for daily posts on Instagram and Facebook for the latest developments.

Welcoming Estates Website

www.welcomingestateswebsite.com



Enhancing social inclusion through social farming – FARCURA Virtual Final Conference

Julian CORTES, ELO

On the 30th of September, 2021, the FARCURA Consortium held its Virtual Final Conference. The FARCURA project has worked over the last 2.5 years to enhance social inclusion through social farming. The Final Conference aimed at showcasing the free online training platform as well as present various case-studies covering some best practices in the field of social farming. The Final Conference also brought together key speakers from different spheres of social farming to present their experience, research, and discuss the future of social farming activities in the EU.

First to present was Dermot CARROLL (LIT), who introduced the project and presented a tour of the online training platform. The training platform (farcura.eu website) provides training modules on different models of social farming, success factors of social farming, and planning and management for a successful social farming enterprise.

Next to present was Joe McCROHAN who along with Eamon HORGAN, presented on Kerry Social Farming in Ireland. Kerry Social Farm is the only voluntary model of social farming in Ireland, meaning that farmers are not paid for their time with participants. Rather it is a locally-led, community-based, shared service that provides farming and social inclusion opportunities to people with intellectual disabilities. Joe and Eamon provided inspirational testimonies regarding the experiences of farmers and participants in Ireland's only voluntary social farming initiative. Goran MILOSEVIC showcased Korenika Eco-Farm in Slovenia and the benefits of multi-functional activities in creating a resilient social farm. Korenika Eco-Farm provides program training and introduces new forms of employment all while producing quality food and maintaining the cultural heritage of the region. Deirdre O'CONNOR (UCD) shared insights from the Green4Care project that can be applied to other social farming projects. Deirdre highlighted the importance of promoting innovative nature-based solutions to issues in health, wellbeing, and social inclusion. She emphasised the need for political support of social farming projects through more funding opportunities. Francesco Paolo DI IACOVO (UNIPI) discussed social farming as a smart solution that has an incredible potential to provide key services in a changing world. From his research, he shows that social farming is a new solution that can greatly aid in dealing with economic crises and global issues through the involvement of citizens in collaboration with institutions and public services to improve overall quality of life.

Finally, Elena SCHUBERT (European Commission) discussed the European strategies and policies relating to social farming in Europe. She highlighted social farming as an excellent way to respond to social needs and provide necessary social services to diverse communities in rural areas. She referred to the CAP as a policy that strengthens social sustainability in rural communities and contributes to supporting social resilience in rural areas.

The conference concluded with an insightful panel discussion that touched upon the incredible impact of social farming on individuals, communities and societies at different scales and levels.

More information on <https://farcura.eu/>



SAFEGUARD project kick-off meeting – to fill major knowledge gaps around the conservation status of species

Daniel MONTELEONE, ELO

The H2020 project SAFEGUARD held its kickoff meeting (KOM) on September 7-9th. Originally intended for Würzburg, Germany, the KOM was held virtually on Zoom, due to COVID19. The objective of the project is to fill major knowledge gaps around the conservation status of species, which for the most part are lacking important data, as well as characterise recent trends of these pollinators in light of global change and is set to finish in 2025.


The first day began with Dr. STEFFAN-DEWENTER introducing the project followed by the EC Project officer (Christopher COUDON) and perspectives from DG ENV, AGRI and RTD. Throughout the first day, each of the partners, including ELO, was introduced with both detailed information about the organisations and "fun facts" about the partners that will be working on the project. This was followed by an in-depth examination of the Work Packages, 1 through 8.

Over the next two days, the 44 different tasks that are part of the 8 Work Packages were discussed and each partner was informed of their duties and contributions that will be completed during the lifecycle of the project by 25 institutions in 15 countries.

Although the partners did not get the chance to meet in person, the meeting coordinators set up a brilliant virtual meeting platform, where partners could wander, talk, and learn about each other in a 2D / 3D isometric environment.

If you would like to learn more about the project, please follow us on social media or contact us directly.

 @Safeguard2021

 SafeguardProject

Your opinion is needed to unleash the potential of waste-based fertilisers. We have prepared a survey for you available in 13 languages! We need your help!



The ELO, alongside Ghent University in Belgium, and an advisory group have developed a survey for agricultural producers and landowners across various EU regions.

The objective of this survey is to identify both the attitudes and the willingness to pay for bio-based fertilisers. This information will allow us to design strategies and policy-oriented recommendations to the European Commission, that take into consideration agricultural producers' opinions.

We need agricultural producers and advisors to the following sectors:

- Field Crops
- Horticulture
- Wine production
- Milk production
- Grazing livestock
- Granivores
- Mixed production and others

The survey can be accessed via this QR code:



Should you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us at sergio.garmendia@elo.org or visit <https://etn-reflow.eu/>

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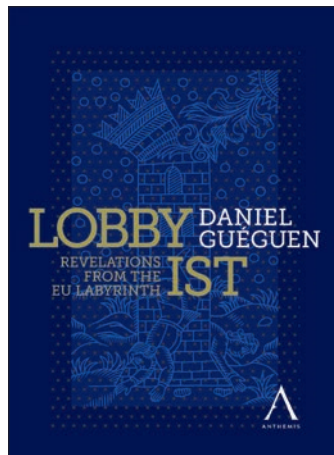
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Lobbyist

Or the rediscovery of a profession through positive criticism

DANIEL GUÉGUEN
ED. ANTHÉMIS, 2020
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Former head of the European sugar lobby, then Secretary General of COPA-COGECA, Daniel GUÉGUEN has developed an impressive career in which consultant, professor, author and citizen are intertwined, because according to him, there can be no effective lobbying without commitment and convictions.

A convinced European, GUÉGUEN is no less critical. His analysis of free trade agreements and the destructive impact of GATT on the Common Agricultural Policy shows that the current CAP reforms are only insignificant and inappropriate measures.

The governance of the European Union is also highly criticised. It is no longer the co-legislators who legislate, says GUÉGUEN, but obscure enclaves, trialogues, delegated acts, implementing acts, in short opaque, bureaucratic systems, the exact opposite of a living democracy.

Under the generic title "Have European lobbyists become incompetent?", he delivers - with many examples and real cases - a fierce criticism of European professional associations that are victims of the "consultation dictatorship" initiated by the Commission. Always on the defensive, poor communicators, the industrial lobbyists give way to masterfully organised NGOs, showing leadership, making the best use of the meanders of the procedure, relying on a Commission and a European Parliament that have gone green.

We need to rethink European lobbying. Promote alliances from producer to consumer, use local networks, focus on priorities, learn to communicate, educate. In short, lobbying should be conceived on a case-by-case basis, like the management of a project, with a leader and a will to do. Two organisations were cited as examples: AmCham-Eu and ELO.

You can order the book directly at the editor Anthémis (info@anthemis.be) for 25 euro.

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