

# European landowners meet in Brussels to defend stability, land and nature



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On 2 December 2025, the European Landowners' Organization (ELO) held its General Assembly at the Maison Grand Place in Brussels, gathering 50 members, national associations and EU partners. The meeting addressed the future of the CAP, regulatory complexity, and ELO's evolving governance. Contributions from MEP Christine SCHNEIDER and Belgian organisations highlighted shared concerns over policy direction. Members reaffirmed their commitment to supporting nature and rural development, while calling for greater clarity, coherence, and recognition of landowners' role in the European Green Deal.

Thierry DE L'ESCAILLE, ELO Executive President, opened the session by underlining the importance of preserving the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) as a dedicated strategic instrument. He warned that the proposed "single fund" in the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) could weaken the CAP, particularly Pillar II rural development, and reduce parliamentary oversight.



ture policies that reward measurable environmental and economic results while avoiding overly restrictive eligibility rules.

MEP Christine SCHNEIDER supported maintaining a clear CAP structure in the next MFF and cautioned against fragmented funding, regulatory overload and overlapping EU obligations affecting landowners and family businesses.

Andriy DYKUN, Chair of the Ukrainian Agrarian Council, described the severe challenges facing Ukrainian landowners during the war and called for stronger cooperation with European partners.

The Assembly concluded by reaffirming the need for coherent long-term policies and fair recognition of landowners' contribution to Europe's environmental and rural objectives as ELO prepares its input for the next MFF.



## Podcast – Bridging the gap: Financing the agricultural transition

In the latest episode of the Food Systems Podcast, Jurgen TACK, Secretary General of the European Landowners' Organization (ELO), discusses the Forum for the Future of Agriculture's recent report on financing the transition to a more resilient and sustainable agri-food system. Speaking with host Rose O'DONOVAN, TACK outlines the challenge of aligning environmental objectives with economic viability for farmers.

The report stresses the need for long-term policy consistency. Farmers often make investments over several decades and cannot adapt easily to rapidly changing rules. While reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) remains central, Jurgen TACK argues that private finance must complement public funds. He points to the potential of nature credits and improved markets for ecosystem services as promising tools. The ELO's Wildlife Estate Label, now covering almost three million hectares, offers one model that recognises and supports biodiversity efforts.

TACK also raises concerns about proposals to merge the CAP budget into a wider "single fund", which could undermine the stability of agricultural support. Addressing the estimated €62 billion investment gap requires structural change. Rather than replacing missing funds, the focus should be on creating new models where environmental services are valued economically, reliably and transparently.