European Policy and Private Land Conservation

Christoph Büren,
President of the European Landowners Organization

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Who We Are

The ELO,

- Represents a network of national organisations, based in Brussels
- Anticipates potential changes in the political and legal climate in the EU with significance for its members.
- Is the voice of landowners and managers in relation to EU authorities.
- Is active in more than 45 advisory committees and groups in the EU, and has high-level contacts throughout the EU authorities and the 28 Member States
A Selection of our 60+ Member Organisations
Who We Are

Working together for a prosperous and sustainable countryside
Our Work in Brussels
What’s Going on In Europe?

- The Juncker Commission is **not setting out to reinvent Europe**
- There is a **lack of bold new initiatives**
- The Commission prefers to **refine currently existing directives and programs**
- **Jobs** and **Immigration** are at the top of the agenda. **CAP Simplification** and **Natura 2000 reform** are important for us right now
Policy Issues

- Cap Reform and Greening
- Forestry
- Nature Legislation
- Biodiversity Strategy Review
- The Intergroup on Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside
- Advocating Innovation
- Promoting Pollinators & Field Margins
CAP Reform and Greening

Member States have now submitted their implementation plans to the Commission.

Land registration systems for CAP payments have not worked out in all systems.

The CAP greening is already developing into more administration than field results.
CAP Reform and Greening

- The simplification shows that the CAP reform is now working
  - Too many exemptions for different groups
  - Ecological Focus Area confusion is getting worse, not better
  - Both Green & Farm Organisations not happy

- However, demonstrating sustainable land management will be vital for continued support after 2020.
Forestry

ツアー The ELO represents many private forest owners in Europe

tour We work together with other forest stakeholders on issues such as:

- The Sustainable Forest Strategy
- Cascade of use principle
- Natura 2000 & profitable forestry
DG ENVI is examining if Birds & Habitats Directives are:

- Effective
- Efficient
- Coherent
- Relevant
- Adding value
Natura 2000 ReFIT

- The ELO has participated in the evidence gathering and in meetings with the Commission
  - Green NGOs have launched a strong campaign (#itsMyNature), which has already passed 500,000+ signatures
  - Value for private land management needs to be demonstrated
  - We currently expect that the guidelines will become more flexible
EU 2020 targets are not being met:

- 70% of EU species still threatened with habitat loss
- Only 11% of agricultural land is in favourable conservation status
- Forests are not improving
EP Intergroup: “Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside”

- Re-Established in the new Parliament
- EPP, S&D and ECR parliamentary groups support the Intergroup, **100 MEPs** signed to re-establish the Intergroup

Topics under discussion:
- Climate Change
- Natura 2000 regulations
- Natural Capital
- Return of the Wolf
Large Carnivores Platform

Platform exists to facilitate discussions among stakeholders on how human activities and the particular needs and issues of large carnivores co-exist.

ELO, Finnish and Swedish Reindeer Herders, FACE, CIC, IUCN, WWF and EuroParc as members
Promoting Innovation & Understanding New Technologies

- **Innovation** is the key to 21st century agriculture & forestry

- Need to rethink the concept of productivity not only through knowledge & science, but by understanding better the need and use of natural resources

- ELO organises meetings, conferences, and dinners to discuss innovation

- New ELO publication/position on innovation has just been printed on our website: [www.elo.org](http://www.elo.org)
Promoting Pollinators & Field Margins

Field margins are viable under CAP greening rules & an important tool to promote biodiversity on your estates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natural regeneration</th>
<th>Grass buffer strip</th>
<th>Multi-functional Field Margin</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td>![Biodiversity Star Rating]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soil &amp; Water</td>
<td>![Soil &amp; Water Star Rating]</td>
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<td>Farm Suitability</td>
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<td>Cost Efficiency</td>
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Promoting Pollinators & Field Margins

- ELO is currently developing policy recommendation field margins as a (mandatory) part of the greening measures.

- Different strips for different results:
  - Multifunctional field strips
  - Specific pollinator mixes
  - Game crops and feeding mechanisms
Family Farming and Rural Business

Family farms operate at very different scales - the small and the larger, more commercial family farm businesses.

The importance of **well-defined property rights** is at the heart of any discussion pertaining to farm family businesses.

The concepts of ‘family’ and ‘commercialism’ should not be divorced.
The Forum for the Future of Agriculture

The FFA is our main platform for sharing ideas with a large international audience.

It is the biggest agricultural/environmental event on the Brussels Calendar!

- 1.600 participants in 2015
- Amina Mohamed and the SDGs as theme
- Last years' topics:
  - Global Food Security
  - Reconciling Risk and Environment
  - The Circular Economy
Wildlife Estates: The Private Conservation Offer
WE ACT FOR BIODIVERSITY
Conservation: The Private Offer

Europe’s private land managers **must publicly demonstrate the value of their actions**

The ELO has created the **Wildlife Estates Label**

The following Estates have been labelled **here in Finland:**

- HCO Laitiala Centre
- Palosaari
- Porkkala

- Kullo
- Kiiala
- Wanantaka
ELO created the WE Label 10 years ago.

The purpose of the WE label is to demonstrate the power and possibilities of private land management for conservation of nature.

The WE label rewards responsible land managers and serves to recognize their achievements.
10 years of Wildlife Estates: Area Covered

Ha

1200000
1100000
1000000
900000
800000
700000
600000
500000
400000
300000
200000
100000
0


23276 44376 48258 212963 244230 362336.1 772615.69 917002.69 1.009.927.69

1.009.927.69

Issue 3
About the Wildlife Estates Label

- Creating and improving habitats in favor of biodiversity.
- Restoring natural conditions where game species can thrive.
- Ensure land is maintained in a good condition.
- Promote the rural economy and population (against desertification).
- Create added-value for the natural and cultural heritage.
- **CONSERVATION THROUGH WISE USE**: 
  - responsible exploitation of wildlife via rural activities.
  - value of wildlife to the society as a whole.
  - recognizes the role of active and positive management.
Wildlife Estates Label: A Public – Private Partnership

- Wildlife Estates is a Public-Private Partnership between private landowners and public authorities.

- More than 30 national and local associations & foundations work with Wildlife Estates to promote sustainable management.
About the Wildlife Estates: Scientific Committee

-The Wildlife Estates is supported by its Independent Scientific Committee

- Led by the Polytechnic University of Madrid and the University of Vienna

- Adjusts the Wildlife Estates questionnaire for biogeographical regions

- Fully independent
About the Wildlife Estates Label: Institutional Support

- The Wildlife Estates is supported by the European Commission- DG ENVIRONMENT:
  - Reaching Favourable Conservation Status of Species and Habitats
  - Combatting Invasive Alien Species
  - Collecting data and for creating management plans
Benefits of WE Label

- Tax easement in Spain
- Rural Development funding in Portugal
- Economic and Environmental report in Scotland
- Visibility towards EU institutions
- Broad network of knowledge and practice sharing
ELO Awards
The Anders Wall Award

The Anders Wall Award 2015/16 is open for applications

Rewarding private estates with contributions to the rural environment through:
- Preserving and enhancing the landscape
- Providing biodiversity
- Preserving Rural Heritage
- Contributing to a sustainable local economy

15,000 Euro Award

Check [www.elo.org/awards](http://www.elo.org/awards) for details
The Soil Award

The Soil Award 2015/2016 is also open for submissions

The aim is to spread awareness of the importance of soil and to show best practices and examples

5.000 Euro Award

For details, see www.elo.org/awards
Thank You For Your Attention