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ELO* - European Landowners' Organization

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Editorial

During the forum on the future of agriculture the food crisis was one of the main topics. However the debate focused on the reform of the CAP and therefore one of the major causes was not addressed: agricultural real estate. This could be the subject of a major discussion. The current global shortages in production are all too often the result of institutional property arrangements. Zimbabwe's shortages are not due to external causes – the market cannot be blamed if it not only cannot develop but, even worse, is destroyed by the absence of property rights.

In too many regions the African continent in particular suffers from the fact agricultural property rights remain undefined or are insecure – which is why there is so little investment in this sector.

It is only by recognizing clear and secure property rights which act as an incentive that producers will emerge and try to meet demand.

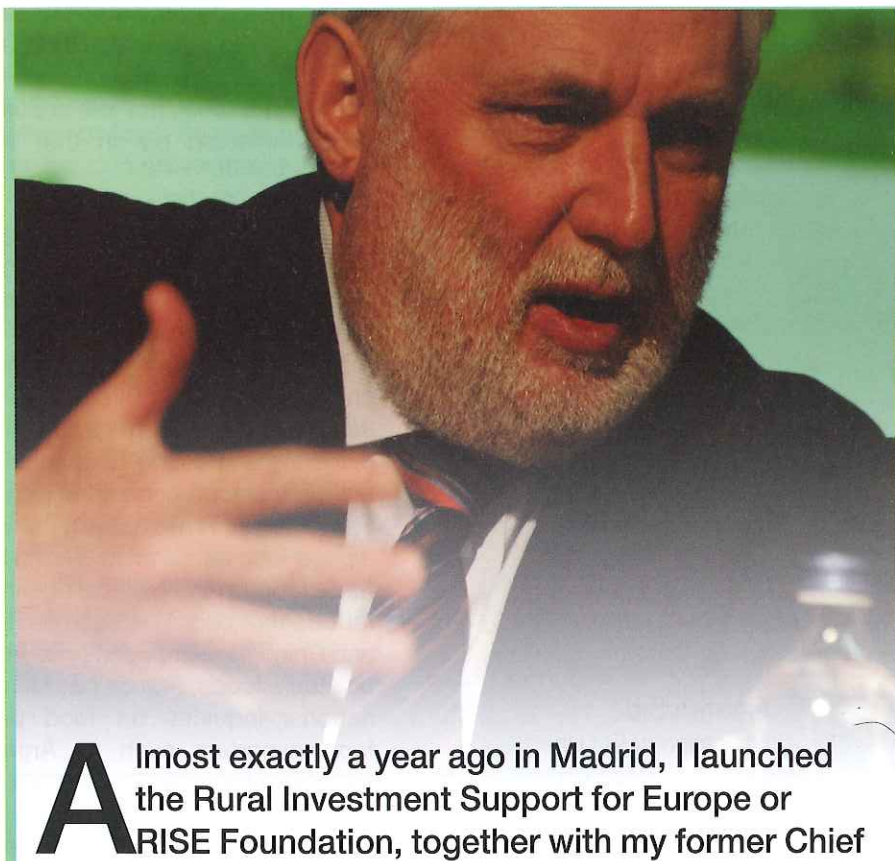
China for example recently decided to protect land ownership to resolve the problems of its food production.

Eastern Europe is now overcoming these problems, which gives us the capacity to increase our production. Our democratic states realise that they cannot act arbitrarily. The necessary balance between food security and environmental safety should encourage them to stop unjustifiably misusing rights, such as the ban on fertilizers in certain areas of Flanders which has no scientific basis.

A rational approach is needed if a real food crisis is to be avoided and if the environment is to be preserved.

Thierry de l'ESCAILLE

1st Forum for the Future of Agriculture



Almost exactly a year ago in Madrid, I launched the Rural Investment Support for Europe or ARISE Foundation, together with my former Chief of Staff, Corrado PIRZIO BIROLI, the ELO and the FCS. I highlighted the double, interrelated food and environmental challenge that the world is facing. This challenge was the key motivation for the creation of the new philanthropic instrument RISE, of which I am Chairman (...) While our presentations raised interest in food and environmental security, they did not quite achieve the degree of awareness that is imperative(...), and most people remain quite unaware of the interconnections between the two challenges regarding food and environment.