



## Editorial

## Key messages emerging from the 4<sup>th</sup> Forum For Agriculture

We are proud to present to you this edition with a special focus on the questions and conclusions that arose during the 4th Forum for the Future of Agriculture (FFA), which the ELO organized on the 15th March with Syngenta, the support of the RISE Foundation, and its sponsors' European Voice, BNP Paribas and Friends of the Countryside.

The FFA brings a unique dimension to the debate on the future of the CAP and sustainable land management by attaching equal weight to food and environmental security. The 4th Forum was a great success, and I would like to thank all the panellists for the quality of their interventions as well as the large audience for their participation and thought-provoking questions.

The ELO advocates a European agriculture that is competitive as well as sustainable, and a CAP reform which is acceptable to land managers and society alike.

Land managers should be provided proper remuneration for their products and services in order to maintain a decent livelihood. European farming must further improve its production efficiency, produce more food and fibre with less, and enhance the production of public services such as attractive landscapes. Maintaining land in good condition is an extremely important investment in view of the indirect public services such as water storage and purification, carbon sequestration and biodiversity which are currently and must continue to be provided through proper land management. To do so requires "sustainable intensification" (F.FISCHLER). European Agriculture must also continue to contribute to world food security.

It is essential that the new CAP enables land managers to have the financial means to continue their profession (maintain SFP in Pillar 1). Anxieties, in general, are centred on current (and perhaps future) greening policies within the CAP with little guidance and over reliance on disproportionate sanctions. Their contribution to sustainability cannot simply rely on regulations and sanctions, but depend on the right incentives.

*Thierry de l'ESCAILLE*  
Secretary General



Refocusing security on food and nature  
CAP renewal for better farming.



## 4th Forum for the future of agriculture 15 March - Brussels



### > Key messages



Franz FISCHLER

The conference was opened by Franz FISCHLER who stressed the importance of global cooperation on the new security challenges which have emerged, particularly, declining natural resources, changing climate, food price volatility, food shortages and widespread poverty. He suggested this cooperation should be shaped by existing institutions and global forums such as the FAO, the G20 and within the EU, as well as bilaterally.

An important precondition for change, he signalled, was the pressing need to create better synergies between trade, development, agriculture, energy and environmental policies. He stressed the need in order that everybody be pulling in the same direction ahead of great, social, economic and environmental challenges.

He highlighted that the key subject of the FFA was the need to refocus security on food and nature, in light of the pending CAP reform, when even the world's big military establishments were redefining their countries' true security risks. He explained how nations have been

slowly downgrading military threats, and reassessing the effectiveness of military intervention abroad, while upgrading the perils associated with population growth and migration pressures, food, water and energy shortages, as well as climate change. These new global threats cause political instability and may lead to societal collapse. He concluded that it was of course better and cheaper to prevent popular unrest with

appropriate policies than to deal with it after it has started.

Speakers in the **"Knowledge-based Agriculture" session** debated the issue of high-tech agriculture as the best option for the economy and the environment. According to Aalt DIJKHUIZEN of Wageningen UR, in order to face the major challenges threatening our capacity to feed the world, we must increase production per ha and per animal, to improve food quality and food safety, to lower the environmental impact of production and to use biomass for bio-fuels and green chemistry. World food security can be attained, but needs major investment in technology and innovations, high-tech agriculture, consumer and societal acceptance and bio-refinery.

The point was raised whether or not it is correct to priorities energy policies faced with the current environmental challenges.

Janez POTOČNIK, Commissioner for the Environment, gave the keynote speech



Hildegard KUHLMANN, Benoit COPPÉE, Allan BUCKWELL, Dirk AHNER and Stephen SACKUR.



Mairead MCGUINNESS, Jaqueline MCGLADE, Carl-Albrecht BARTMER, Janez POTOČNIK and Stephen SACKUR.

of the **session on “Sustainability and environmental security in farming”**

(red: it is published on the next pages of the Countryside Magazine). The lack of consensus between members of BARROSO’s Commission was noted by MEP Mairead MCGUINNESS, Member of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee. She mentioned that the letter signed by Commissioners D.CIOLOS, J. POTOČNIK and C. HEDEGAARD is missing the signatures of EC President M. BARROSO and of Trade Commissioner K. DE GUCHT, emphasising that if the Commission does not integrate, ‘we cannot ask farmers to do so’. However, all the panellists agreed with the view expressed in the letter which stated that “farmers are particularly well placed to provide land management environmental services, and can usually do so more

efficiently than other people”, and therefore need adequate financial support. Lester BROWN, keynote speaker of the **session “Competition & sustainability along the food chain”** focused on the global agricultural situation with various recommendations for the EU. He stated that “the global community is in a chronically troublesome situation stemming from a dramatic change in the fundamental trends in food prices. Demand for agricultural products is now outpacing supply. Major grain crops such as rice, wheat and maize are experiencing underproduction. (...) Various situations of over pumping of water in major grain producing countries that has created “food bubbles”, inflated food production capacity that is reaching its end. These trends indicate that global society is in an insecure political situation

due to food security. As a result, we must re-define ‘security’ away from the 20th century model of a state-centred military model, to a model reflecting the greatest threats of the 21st century: climate change and food security”.

The **session “Are rural areas the losers of globalization?”** opened with Dirk AHNER, Director General of DG REGIO. He emphasized that rural areas are certainly not the losers, at least not by definition, but still the disparities between rural and urban areas are too high (for example, in New Member States, the GDP of rural areas represents only 30% of that in urban areas). As agriculture is no longer the driver of the rural economy there is a need for business diversification to ensure a high quality of



Roel BOL, Charles MÉAUDRE, Tim KING, Maurice MOLONEY and Aalt DIJKHUIZEN.

life. Interlinks and relationships between urban and rural areas was mentioned by all speakers, as well as the need to overcome dichotomies between them. Certainly the CAP is not the only instrument which can be used to promote regional development. Professor BUCKWELL gave as an example the so-called Less Favoured Areas in agriculture which could become "Environmentally favoured areas" as food production shouldn't be always the target but also public goods which must be managed by farmers.

Speakers from the last **session on "CAP reform for better farming"** underlined the high responsibility of decision-makers to explain clearly how we can have a public goods approach in the next CAP. MEP Paolo de CASTRO, Chair of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, highlighted the need to be one community, having more harmony between Member States.

MEP Reimer BOGE, Rapporteur for the multi-annual financial framework, stated that the European Parliament will give the Commission a strong message of what we want: to maintain the CAP 2013, as all budgets can be cut slightly

without causing a disaster. MEP George LYON, Rapporteur on the CAP post 2013, emphasized that agriculture needs to demonstrate its performance on food security issues but it needs to go further by showing the environmental performance as well - citizens need to see the goods delivered if more money is to be found. If sustainability is the fundamen-

tal question then sustainable intensification is the answer.

Franz FISCHLER closed the conference by reiterating his preference for the CAP to remain a strong, common European policy. He highlighted the need to safeguard sufficient budgetary resources to pay for the environmental services being demanded alongside agricultural production as well as the need to include full-cost pricing so costs are not only born by farmers and so that prices take into account environmental externalities. He invited stakeholders to continue to follow the debate through our regional conferences and FFA media.

**FFA team.**

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Lester BROWN, Pdraig WALSH, Ken ASH and Stephen SACKUR.

## Priorities and objectives for the next CAP reform.



*Dacian CIOLOS.*

**W**e have to bear in mind the context in which this reform is taking place, such as the growing demands on our food supply coming from a growing population and changing diets. This demand takes place in an ever opening world market which is becoming vulnerable to demand and supply shocks. Food is becoming rarer and the food supply is coveted by both investors and speculators which in a climate of increasing demand, where prices and also price volatility are increasing, producers face tough challenges.

And even if we agree that in order to increase food production, we must invest more in agriculture, nobody will invest time or efforts without reassurances that there will be stable returns on their investment. On the one hand we need greater investment in agriculture to boost production, but on the other, we also need greater price stability for farmers. Beyond the growing world demand for food, in Europe we are seeing a growing demand for environmental public goods from farmers and foresters who maintain almost two thirds of the

European landscape. We must take into account both the needs of agricultural producers and the need to manage our natural resources. The CAP has to cope with the huge diversity of European rural territories and agricultural production conditions and adapt to their specific needs. We are also asked to maintain farming across the entire European territory, not only to produce food but also to manage the natural resources and ensure a balanced development of the European territory. To respond to these demands, we need a common European approach. It is perhaps a paradox that after EU enlargement, diversity in agriculture and in rural communities has increased. It is precisely because of this diversity in agriculture on our common market that we need a common policy and not renationalisation. We must respond to these challenges and find common ways to address our diversities.

This CAP reform does not come out of the blue, but from an on-going process of almost perpetual change. Moving on from the decoupling of financial support from production, and the establishment of a rural development policy, and in order to respond to future challenges and budgetary strains, we must change the way that support is targeted to farmers. Bearing in mind this context, we need an agriculture which is competitive on both world markets and in terms of the management of natural resources. We have often treated these demands as conflicting with each other even within the CAP itself, on the one hand pushing farmers to produce more abundantly, offering higher quality and ever cheaper food for consumers, but at the same time, forcing them to respect the norms which society demands.

For this reason, we must propose a new logic which reconciles economic competitiveness with natural resource management. We can no longer put our farmers in a position of contradiction vis-à-vis these two elements through the policies we make. If we want to ensure food security, we have no option but to think long-term. We cannot develop



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economic competitiveness if it is to the detriment of the quality and sustainability of the natural resources which we badly need now, and which will need more of in 50 years and later on in this century. In Europe, we are not in a position where we can eternally drain our resource base of water, soils and biodiversity. Neither can we over-emphasise the resource management elements without acknowledging that our farmers need to compete in increasingly open markets.

This is where the Commission is coming from with its proposal on CAP reform. We need to integrate the diversity of farm structures in any policy which we make. To favour one model over another is to misunderstand the realities of agriculture in Europe. There are a multitude of structures, small farms, very large ones, family farms etc. They all can find themselves on local, national and international markets and we need to valorise each and every production type we have.

The Commission has proposed supporting tools to deliver these goals around three axes of the reform which are:

- Agricultural production in sufficient quantities, and of sufficient quality and diversity.

- The preservation of natural resources
- A territorial balance of rural areas across the EU

Around these three axes, we want an approach to the CAP which keeps the two-pillar structure. The first pillar should be more generalised and financed 100% from the community budget, and the second one should be organised on a multi-annual basis so as to take into account the regional specificities of regions in the EU. The Commission insists on the complementarity between the two pillars, with pillar one providing basic income support subject to cross-compliance, and the other offering incentives to produce public goods without compromising agricultural productivity. These two production systems must be valorised so that farmers and taxpayers better understand why it is still necessary that 40% of the EU budget remain reserved for 2% of the active population. Farmers, representing these two per cent, are able to produce global public goods which need to be understood and recognised by society.

In the framework of the first pillar, the reform foresees complementary payments to farmers in regions with natural handicaps where production costs are higher. We need clearer targeting on farmers who produce food and public goods, and an upper ceiling on payments to very large agricultural holdings. Payments for public goods should cover all sizes and types of holdings but we must keep to a basic support level to keep credibility. Concerning simplification of the support system, the reform should offer a simpler method of handling payments to small farmers. Greening, meaning payments for public goods, should come in the first pillar so that it covers the whole of the European territory leaving the second pillar free to manage the diversity of EU production models.

The Commission in its proposition fixed seven priorities stemming from the European 2020 strategy. On all these priority areas, the CAP needs to offer solutions.

In the second pillar, the Commission has proposed to focus on increasing competitiveness and sustainability, as well as valorising the diversity of markets and improving the quality of life in rural areas. It is necessary to emphasise

knowledge acquisition and develop better and more practical means for knowledge transfers. We must develop a greater emphasis than in the past on innovation, on extension, on training and on the link between research and agricultural practices. It is equally necessary to reinforce the link between Agricultural policy and innovation policy at the EU level, and even to create a European network for R&D and innovation.

I also believe it is necessary to strengthen and improve the diversity of products on offer to help ensure that the added value created stays with the producer. Further to this we need reinforcement of the role of producer organisations and cooperatives in the management of market produce throughout the food chain.

In terms of the quality of life in rural areas and economic diversification, there is a need for better complementarity between the instruments of rural and regional development. We can no longer make an administrative separation between rural and urban areas because we are facing common problems. We need to value our agriculture because even if it is no longer the principal economic activity in many sectors in rural areas, it is a core node of the socio-economic life there as agriculture maintains the land for other economic purposes.

In conclusion, this CAP must stay a strong European policy and European policy-makers must ensure that the CAP has the resources to match its ambitions.

**Dacian CIOLOS, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development**

(Commissioner CIOLOS delivered this speech as an opening keynote address. This version is based on a summary of the key points and is translated from French).

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## Summary of Commissioner Janez POTOČNIK keynote address.



Janez POTOČNIK, Commissioner for Environment

I have spoken many times about the importance of agriculture and forestry for the environment. The reason for this is quite simple: combined, farmers and foresters in Europe manage three quarters of our land use. This means that the way they manage their land is crucial for the health of soils, for protecting water or biodiversity as well as for achieving climate change objectives. Farming can benefit our environment enormously... if things go wrong, however, the potential for causing problems is just as large.

The direction of successive CAP reforms since the 1990s has been positive for the environment. The hand of former Commissioner Franz FISCHLER is still visible, in the conference today, but also in the current shape of the CAP. He has given us a legacy on which we can and must build.

Let me share with you where I stand on the future CAP: The future CAP will need to respond to expectations on the redistribution of direct payments, on reinforcing agricultural competitiveness and

rural development. However, meeting these expectations only would clearly not be sufficient.

It is essential that the future CAP contributes the public goods we need to meet the environmental and climate challenges we are facing today. I do not see how the amount of public funds spent on agriculture can be legitimised unless the future CAP makes a significant contribution to reaching the EU's environmental and climate targets. We must tackle these challenges today to avoid much bigger problems in the future. I strongly believe that "prevention is better than cure". If there is a CAP in the future, it must be green. And we must not only sanction farmers who do not respect environmental rules, we must also reward those who do provide environmental public goods, because the market does not reward them for that. (...)

The **greening of first pillar payments** is particularly important given the broad territorial coverage of the measures. It will set a baseline of minimum requirements for farmers everywhere, with Europe rewarding them for taking identified measures because it matters for all in the EU. A substantive greening of the first pillar will facilitate the introduction of more ambitious environmental measures in **Rural Development** that focus on environmental and climate-related improvements further beyond the legal baseline. So we must work on the first as well as the second pillar.

Take the example of **biodiversity**. Science tells us we could be in the middle of a period of mass extinction triggered by human pressure on species and ecosystems. In March last year, EU heads of state and government took on a commitment to halting biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystems in Europe by 2020, and to restore them as far as possible by that date. Achieving these targets will require the full implementation of the EU's Natura 2000 network. It will also need a significant contribution by the major land managers outside protected areas: that means farmers. (...)

A further example is **soil**.(...) First pillar payments stimulating maintenance of green cover would help prevent soil erosion; whereas crop rotation requirements would help preserve the quality and productivity of soil. Rural development programmes should offer further opportunities for tackling specific soil degradation issues. Achieving an effective EU policy on soils will not only be good for Europe. It will also send the right signals to our international partners in the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation, where the current stalemate in discussions on soil at EU level is seen as a message that we don't really care.

Another important example is **water**. Agriculture is the biggest user of water and plays a key role in maintaining water quality. In 2012, Member States will have to transpose key elements of the EU Water Framework Directive. I am therefore discussing with my colleague Commissioner CIOLOŞ, which elements of the Water Framework Directive to include in the future cross-compliance system.

*Achieving an effective EU policy on soils will not only be good for Europe. It will also send the right signals to our international partners*

On **forests** I believe that we have made good progress both within the EU and internationally. In October last year, Council and Parliament adopted the EU timber regulation, which will take effect in March 2013.

From then, it will not be possible to place illegally harvested timber and products derived from such timber on the EU market. (...) It is important that CAP rural development money remains available to help foresters cope with these challenges.

I have given you some examples of how the future CAP should contribute to meeting environmental and climate related targets. I want to add one important additional point here. It relates to **simplification**: (...) I agree with these calls and with the need for finding an appropriate balance between public policy objectives and administrative burden.

However, I obviously do not subscribe to calls for "simplification" that are really a demand for "no regulation" and "no control". As I said in the beginning: I do not see how the amount of public funds spent on agriculture can be legitimised



unless the European taxpayer knows that the future CAP will make a significant contribution to reaching the EU's environmental and climate targets and will provide environmental services such as biodiversity protection, flood prevention, fire prevention etc. In other words, a CAP that makes agriculture competitive and sustainable not only today, but also in the future. For our farmers, and their children.

I would want to look beyond the CAP reform debate to the issue of **resource efficiency**, since some elements of what we are discussing there directly relate to the topic of this session. You will know that the Commission launched an EU 2020 flagship on resource efficiency in January this year.(...) This will obviously have consequences for farming, where resources occupy a centrally important position in your day-to-day lives. The prediction of a world population of 9 billion people by 2050 is something that agriculture in particular has to face. We cannot assume a never ending supply of fertilizers, for example, or enough land to guarantee it will deliver everything we are asking it to deliver.

On **fertilizers**, I have asked my services to pay particular attention to **Phosphorus**. This isn't because there is a phosphorus shortage now, but because it is such a vital element and some reports suggest the possibility of shortages in a few decades time.(...)

On **land issues** generally, competing demands for food, bio energy and bio-

resources for industry present a new challenge. (...)

Our resource efficiency debate – which I consider the most important in terms of our attempt to make our economy, prosperous, sustainable and environmentally friendly - will address this issue, among many others.(...)

I am glad that there are places – like today's event – where (red. common) energies can be put to good use.

**Janez POTOČNIK,**  
**Commissioner for Environment**

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## The future shape of the Common Agriculture Policy.

The article presented below is a Letter co-signed the 11<sup>th</sup> of March by Dacian CIOLOS, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Janez POTOČNIK, Commissioner for Environment and Connie HEDEGAARD, Commissioner for Climate Change, send to the other members of the BARROSO Commission. It was mentioned during the 4<sup>th</sup> FFA by numerous speakers as one of the key documents to understand the importance of CAP reform.

Farmers and foresters today are the basis of rural economies, the source of food security, competitiveness and economic growth in rural areas, as well as the managers of land in Europe. It is of crucial importance for the environment and for climate action how they manage their land. This makes the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) an instrument of major relevance to environment and climate change policy. The upcoming CAP reform presents an excellent opportunity to reinforce farmers' contribution to environmental and climate objectives.

The policy debate in the Environment Council on 14 March 2011 is particularly timely, with the Commission now analysing the impact of different policy options and preparing legislative proposal for the future CAP that will be based on the upcoming proposal for the next multiannual financial framework.

The CAP has come a long way to support agriculture and forestry in their role of delivering environmental public goods and climate action. The CAP today makes a crucial contribution to the sustainable management of natural resources by ensuring through direct payments an active presence across the EU of farmers managing land, and notably through the obligation to keep land in good agricultural and environmental conditions (GAEC), as well as targeted rural development measures chosen by Member States in support of biodiversity, water, soil protection, reduction of emissions, adaptation to climate change, etc.

Still, despite the progress made to date in integrating environmental requirements into the CAP, more efforts will be required in the future to address the challenges the EU faces in terms of environment and climate change. The CAP is an effective tool which the EU has at its disposal for steering towards more sustainable management of natural resources, as it is a truly common policy that is shaped at EU level and that has direct impact across the whole EU territory.

In the context of climate change and increasing pressure on ecosystems, the EU has set itself ambitious climate, energy and biodiversity targets. These are at the heart of the Europe 2020 strategy. With agriculture strongly rooted in local economies and farmers assuming their role as stewards of the countryside, the CAP is well placed to contribute to achieving these targets. The future CAP should be a tool to help Member States to reach environmental and climate change targets, notably in relation to biodiversity, water and soil. It should also help farmers seize the benefits embedded in green growth.

Farmers are particularly well placed to provide land management environmental services, and can usually do so more efficiently than other people. However, as reflected by Commission studies, in the absence of a strong CAP agricultural production would most likely be concentrated in certain areas resulting in serious environmental consequences, as well as land abandonment. To this end; farmers will need to invest in new technologies, cooperate on the development of innovative practices, further pursue sustainable land management... And since they are mostly not remunerated on the market for their contribution, farmers rely to a large extent on public support to deliver in line with the expectations of EU citizens. Thus, efficiency requires to give incentives to farmers to provide environmental services (such as biodiversity protection, flood prevention, fire prevention etc) that market does not pay on the land they farm.

A sound CAP supporting the increase of efficiency of the EU agriculture is also essential to improve the GHG emission reduction potential of sector and make it more climate resilient, while at the same time avoiding carbon leakage. Improved agricultural and forestry practices can increase the capacity of the sector to preserve and sequester carbon in soils and forests. This can be achieved through targeted measures (e.g. maintaining grasslands, restoring and preserving wetlands and peat lands, low-or zero-tillage).



All these elements make the CAP an instrument of major relevance to the environment and climate protection.

To respond to these challenges the Communication on the CAP towards 2020 puts forth three main objectives for the future CAP: viable food production, sustainable management of natural resources and climate action, and balanced territorial development. These objectives should not be seen in isolation but rather as part of a common project with important synergies between them. To deliver environmental public goods, agriculture must be a viable and competitive sector relying on human capital and infrastructure available in rural areas. The environmental actions undertaken by farmers are necessary to preserve their natural resource base, which is vital for their competitiveness in the medium-term as well as to maintain the natural capital that is a key asset of rural economies and attractiveness of rural areas.

The Commission is assessing possibilities to enhance the environmental performance of the CAP in different ways under both existing and new instruments, namely by:

further greening direct payments by dedicating a share of the payments to a set of environmental actions that farmers would be required to do across the EU territory;

further strengthening rural development with reinforced strategic targeting on the basis of priorities and quantified targets in line with the Europe 2020 strategy, as well as a learner and more powerful system of indicators to monitor results; and

streamlining, enhancing and simplifying cross compliance, with improvements in the GAEC framework to notably better address climate change as well as ensuring that it covers legislation relevant to farming activities appropriately.

The greening component of direct payments is a new feature that is particularly important given the broad territorial coverage of the measures. The idea is that to be eligible; each farmer would be required to undertake a set of environmental actions, for which he would be paid (rather than sanctioned as under cross compliance). These actions would be mandatory (unlike the voluntary commitments undertaken under agri-environment) to all beneficiaries of direct payments and, thus, have a wide application across the EU territory. The environmental as well as climate related benefits associated with the measures under consideration, such as maintenance of permanent pasture, set aside, crop diversification, green cover, or agriculture in Natura 2000 areas are very considerable, especially given their broad territorial coverage. 'Greening' the 1st pillar will also facilitate the introduction of more ambitious environmental measures in Rural Development, focusing on environmental and climate-related improvements further beyond the legal baseline. For the greening to be effective a viable farming sector and a simple management of the policy are necessary.

Greening is, alongside the redistribution of direct payments and reinforcement of agricultural competitiveness and rural development, at the core of the future CAP.

We urge you to actively participate in the debate to shape the future of the CAP in that direction.

Yours sincerely,

Dacian CIOLOȘ

Yours sincerely

Connie HEDEGAARD

Yours sincerely

Janez POTOČNIK

## Soil and Environmental Management Award 2010/11

The European Landowner's Organization (ELO) under the patronage of Commissioner for the Environment **Janez POTOČNIK**, the auspices of the European Commission (DG ENVIRONMENT and the Joint Research Centre), in association with the BOKU and Ljubljana Universities and Syngenta International awarded the "Environment and Soil Management Award" at the 4<sup>th</sup> Forum for Agriculture, which took place on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March in Brussels.

The award was presented to the Network Land Stewardship (XCT), a non-profit organization registered in Catalonia and established in March 2003 in Vic, Spain, where it is based.

The initiative "Land Stewardship Network: a strategy for owners and citizens for the conservation of biodiversity" has received the prize of € 2,500 and a diploma, recognizing that management practices contribute to soil protection, improvement of environmental quality and, in particular, to mitigating threats to the natural environment. The award also recognizes the economic, social and environmental impact of the project, an initiative that is innovative, original and transferable.

During the ceremony **Thierry de l'ESCAILLE** (Secretary General - ELO) and **John ATKIN** (Chief Operating Officer - Syngenta Crop Protection) introduced the award, which was followed by a few words from **Matthias BUCK** on behalf of Commissioner **Janez POTOČNIK**. The award itself was then given by **Winfried BLUM** (president of the Jury, from BOKU university of Vienna) and was received by **Sergi MARI**, member of the board of the Land Stewardship Network, **Joan BOTEY**, landowner in Gavarres and **Jordi PIETX**, director of the XCT, with the testimony of approximately 300 participants.



The winners Sergi MARI, Joan BOTEY and Jordi PIETX.

ELO welcomes new projects which fit the criteria and contribute to mitigating the threats that European soils faces nowadays.

The application should be submitted directly by a European national (physical or legal person) or a public institution working in the field of land use or land management, or indirectly through organizations.

Additionally, it must contain the name of the project, the postal address (with zip code), the phone number and E-mail address, an executive summary (maximum 1 page) and the main document, describing the achievements presented for award (maximum 20 pages).

For this year prize, the applications should be sent in until the **30 November 2011**. Any requests for application or further information may be submitted to the Awards Coordinator of ELO by post or mail at [forest@elo.org](mailto:forest@elo.org).



**BNP PARIBAS**  
**WEALTH MANAGEMENT**

## Student Blogging Competition Award.



*Franz FISCHLER, Lorenzo CASULLO, Richard BLIAULT and Ladislav MIKO.*

In the run-up to this year's FFA, The RISE Foundation, the ELO and Syngenta launched a student blogging competition to engage the younger generation of thinkers in the debate about the future of agriculture. Students were asked to think about the role of the CAP in combating domestic and world food security challenges, and also to give their suggestions on how to pay for and safeguard ecosystem services. You can read the winning entries on the FFA media. They were chosen by a jury composed of: Corrado PIRZIO-BIROLI (Vice Chairman of the RISE Foundation), Bernard

GRACIET (Senior Public Affairs Advisor, Syngenta), Ladislav MIKO, (Deputy-Director General for the food chain, DG SANCO, European Commission) and Tassos HANIOTIS (Director, Directorate for Economic Analysis, Perspectives and Evaluations, DG AGRI, European Commission).

The two winners, Lorenzo CASULLO from Cambridge University and Richard BLIAULT from the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester, were presented with their prizes by Franz FISCHLER and Ladislav MIKO during the Forum for the Future of Agriculture on March 15th in

front of the audience of delegates present. They have won 500€, a signed book from FFA speakers, an expenses-paid visit to the FFA conference and a visit to Syngenta's leaf demonstration farm in Berkshire.

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**EVOLVING AGRICULTURE.**

# Results of the votes of the participants.

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## Can EU farmers preserve their farming activities while also preserving the environment ?

1. Yes, environmental security and farming can both be achieved together **46%**
2. Yes but ecological sustainability poses some limits on production **43%**
3. Nature conservation will require farmers to find alternative sources of income **9%**
4. No, farmers should EITHER focus on market competitiveness OR nature protection **2%**



## What are the limits of new technology with respect to increasing production and efficiency in agriculture ?

1. Costs **19%**
2. Energy/material balance between inputs VS outputs **8%**
3. Biological limits of crops **12%**
4. Environmental absorption capacity of soil, water and the atmosphere **33%**
5. Consumer concerns **28%**



## Towards which of the following should the greatest share of CAP resources be devoted ?

1. Agricultural support (1<sup>st</sup> pillar) **39%**
2. Climate change mitigation **6%**
3. Research and development **18%**
4. Rural development (2<sup>nd</sup> pillar) **16%**
5. Ecosystem services **9%**
6. Modernisation of agricultural holdings **11%**
7. None of the above **1%**



## How can the CAP and other policies best enhance the environmental sustainability of agricultural production?

1. Through stricter environmental regulation **5%**
2. Through targeted payments for public goods **55%**
3. Through better enforcement and control **9%**
4. Through the inclusion of agriculture in Emission Trading Schemes (or similar) **6%**
5. Through improved energy/recycling policies for agricultural by-products and waste **15%**
6. Through promotion and advice **11%**



## Which of the following would best support the use of new technologies in agriculture ?

1. Removal of public fears **16%**
2. Greater investment in R & D **24%**
3. Better synergies and communication between farmers, researchers, companies and policy-makers **33%**
4. Better communication of environmental and consumer benefits **17%**
5. Political leadership in public discussions **6%**
6. None of the above **5%**



## How best to reduce soil erosion ?

1. Improve farm advisory services related to tilling practices **31%**
2. Adopt the Soil Framework Directive **12%**
3. Improve incentives for zero tilling practices **19%**
4. All of the above **32%**
5. None of the above **5%**



### How to best improve the functioning of the food supply chain ?

1. Strengthen farmer's bargaining position in the food supply chain **39%**
2. Increase transparency of prices along the food supply chain **47%**
3. Adjust competition policy **10%**
4. None of the above **5%**



### How should we keep young people in rural areas ?

1. Member states provide indirect benefits to attract young farmers (tax cuts, lower mortgages, better investment conditions, etc.), **30%**
2. Reform laws of succession **7%**
3. Improve infrastructure and public transportation to and from cities **27%**
4. Provide better diversification opportunities **35%**



### Which is the most effective instrument to combat price volatility ?

1. Continue the Single Farm Payment **11%**
2. Ensure minimum income for farmers through "safety nets" **19%**
3. Strengthen farmers bargaining power towards other players (i.e. industry) **22%**
4. Regulate financial speculation **23%**
5. Invest in climate change mitigation initiatives in agriculture **8%**
6. Introduce strategic storages or public intervention in commodity stock exchange **17%**



### How should the CAP be reformed ?

1. Green the CAP (including public goods provision) in Pillar 1 **29%**
2. Green the CAP in Pillar 2 **16%**
3. Phase out Single Farm payment and concentrate on rural development **8%**
4. Phase out market organizations (interventions, quotas, export subsidies) **6%**
5. Increase R&D, and apply technology and innovation **41%**



### What is the greatest impact of globalization on rural areas ?

1. Urbanization **15%**
2. Lack of services/infrastructure in rural areas **25%**
3. Ageing of rural population **19%**
4. Loss of small/medium farms **14%**
5. Increased competition resulting in lower income for farmers **24%**
6. None of the above **3%**



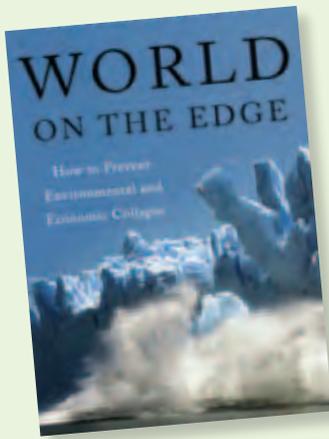
### How can public goods delivered by land managers be best strengthened ?

1. Creating environmental markets (e.g. Emission trading scheme) **19%**
2. Regulation **9%**
3. Contracts for services **32%**
4. Private public partnership **18%**
5. Public awareness **16%**
6. Others **6%**



# World on the Edge

## how to prevent Environmental and Economic Collapse



**Lester R. BROWN**

IBAN 978-0-393-33949-9

We are facing issues of near-overwhelming complexity and unprecedented urgency. Our challenge is to think globally and develop policies to counteract environmental decline and economic collapse. The question is: Can we change direction before we go over the edge?

Lester R. BROWN looks at our economic future through an environmental lens to develop a plan that will sustain civilization. He concentrates on four major components that will head us toward a brighter future: a massive cut in global carbon emissions, the stabilisation of world population, the abatement of poverty, and the restoration of our planet's diverse natural landscape.

As written in the book: "Although these goals are conceptually simple and easily understood, they will not be easily achieved. They will require an enormous effort from each of us. The vested interest of the fossil fuel and defence industries in maintaining the status quo are strong. But it is our future that is at stake. Yours and mine".

Lester R. BROWN is the president of Earth Policy Institute, a research organisation based in Washington, DC. BROWN has been honoured with numerous prizes, including a MacArthur Fellowship, the United Nations Environment Prize, Japan's Blue Planet Prize, and twenty-five honorary degrees.

### DIARY DATES 2011

**4 - 6 May, South Sweden**

Wildlife Estates Working session – an annual meeting at Backaskogslott.  
[www.wildlife-estates.eu](http://www.wildlife-estates.eu)

**10<sup>th</sup> May, Warsaw**

Forum For Agriculture Regional Conference- *CAP RENEWAL FOR BETTER FARMING*, under the auspices of Polish Minister of Agriculture Marek SAWICKI; in collaboration with Polish Federation of Union of Agricultural Employers-Tenants and Land Owners and Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW) <http://www.forumforagriculture.com/>

**12-16 May, Bonn**

Diversity all over the Planet- world congress on the future of food and agriculture  
<http://www.planet-diversity.org/world-map.html>

**24th of May, Budapest**

European Real Estate Summit (BERES)- Gateway to Europe  
<http://www.bres2011.com/eng/program.html>

**24 - 27 May, Brussels**

11<sup>th</sup> edition of Green Week "Resource Efficiency - Using less, living better"  
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/>

**27-28 May, Vienna**

Friends of the Countryside General Assembly

**1 - 3 June, Sremska Mitrovica, Croatia**

2<sup>nd</sup> International Fair of conservation, restoration and renovation of castles and historic buildings - HERITAGE'11 [www.kulturniforum.com](http://www.kulturniforum.com)

**6-9 June, Berlin**

19<sup>th</sup> European Biomass Conference and Exhibition (EU BC&E)  
[www.energetische-biomassenutzung.de](http://www.energetische-biomassenutzung.de)

**20-21 June, Warsaw**

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

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