



**5th Forum for the Future of Agriculture - Regional Event
Chlumeč nad Cidlinou, September 13, 2012**

Meeting the food and environmental challenge

The regional conference of the Forum for the Future of Agriculture took place for the first time in Czech Republic in September 2012.

The event began with a press conference on September 12 at the Ministry of Agriculture, which saw the participation of Jiri MACH, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and speakers representing all Czech partners of the FFA – including Prof. Allan BUCKWELL, ELO Chief Adviser on CAP issues, and IEEP Senior Adviser; Ing Karol SANDAL, regulatory and technical support manager for the Czech Republic and Slovakia, Syngenta as well as Ing Josef STEHLIK, President, Czech Private Farmers Association; Ing Michal POSPISIL, President, Czech Private Landowners' Association; RNDr Frantisek POJER, Advisor to the Director, Czech Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection; Ing Stanislav JANSKY, Vice president, SVOL; Ing Vaclav ZAMECNIK, Czech Ornithology Society; and Ing Jaroslav PRAZAN, Head of Department of Rural Development, Institute of Agricultural Economics and Information as moderator. All participants underlined that FFA conferences are a possibility to truly face CAP ideas: 1. profitability of the agro-sector, 2. environmental impacts and how to deal with them, 3. how to intensify activities in rural areas; providing a chance to discuss the specific situation in the hosting country.

The conference itself took place on September 13 in the Chateau Karlova Koruna in Chlumeč nad Cidlinou with green NGOs, the agro-industry and private landowners in attendance, as well as representatives from the several stakeholder groups, including the younger generation with Young Friends of the Countryside. High level speakers and more than 100 participants contributed to the debate structured in three panels.

The first panel started with a broader view of how the current CAP proposal can ensure Europe will continue to produce enough food while preserving its natural resources. Moderated by C.KINSKY, member of the Friends of the Countryside, it included speakers such as Prof A.BUCKWELL, Ing J.PRAZAN, Ing J.STEHLIK, and Ing M. POSPISIL. All panelists underlined the need of applying a holistic approach when reforming the CAP. The second panel identified measures and best practices for improving habitats and biodiversity at the level of the farm and forest. Special focus was given to current practices and landscape features which are adopted in the Czech Republic to comply with the coming Greening measures. Moderated by Doc.Ing.A.BUCEK, it included as speakers RNDr.F.POJER, Dr.Ing.P.MARADA, Ing.S.JANSKY, and the Czech Minister of Environment Mgr.T.CHALUPA, who addressed the keynote speech. All panellists gave a special focus to water issues. The third panel focused on practical measures at farm level which can the protection of biodiversity and the production of ecosystem services, while not compromising farm productivity. Moderated by T.de l'ESCAILLE, the ELO Secretary General, it included as speakers Ing.V.ZAMECNIK, Ing.J.PESOUT and Dr.H.T.JACHMANN. All speakers underlined the need for better communication. Society has to understand that subsidies are one of the ways to face global competitiveness by producing high quality food.

The conference also took a look at the practical implementation of measures at the farm through examples of landscape features and management practices which have a positive impact on local biodiversity, reduce soil erosion and protect water quality.