



**7th Forum for the Future of Agriculture - Regional Event
Bucharest, October 9, 2014**

How to sustainably produce more with less and trade better

The Forum for the Future of Agriculture (FFA 2014) – the Regional event held in Bucharest, in the presence of 160 delegates, called for the need of Romanian farmers to contribute to food and environmental security and to deliver a sustainable and intensive agriculture, in other words, to sustainably produce more with less in the context of increasing business profitability of the agribusiness sector. The Forum focused also on global agricultural issues, including the discussions on the TTIP such as the benefits of the Free Trade Agreement with the United States regarding intensification of trade, with opportunities for the agricultural food sector including dairy, fruits and processed products; and concerns about undermining the European Union food safety and environmental standards.

In particular, Bucharest FFA2014 delegates highlighted Europe's challenge faced by the European economy, the need of intensive resources and demand for high quality, safe and affordable food in the context of efficient use of land. This specifically means conserving water, improving soil fertility and protecting ecosystems.

Thinking differently about how to address these challenges, not only economical, but also political will imply the need to enable the public and private sector, farmers, academics, NGOs and the industry to collaborate much more closely, to provide farmers and land managers with the tools, technologies and know-how that they need. Also, politicians must ensure that their policies, subsidies and penalties are simple, scalable, practical, and able to deliver public goods as well as stimulating more innovation in agriculture.

In the first panel, Thierry de l'Escaille, Secretary General of ELO, highlighted that "This Forum is an initiative of the European Landowners' Organization, European federation of commercial farmers and managing land owners, and of Syngenta, it is a common effort we have been sharing for 7 years. The Forum brings together a diverse range of stakeholders to catalyze thinking on the way agriculture needs to respond to the major challenge it faces in delivering food and environmental security." ELO Secretary General reminded of major challenges, like feeding a growing world population, facing the demand for a higher quality diet, an increasing demand of renewable energy sources and the changing weather patterns with restricted or limited arable land availability. He continued that there is a need to sustainably maximize production for what is already under cultivation. The 7th Forum for the Future of Agriculture held in Brussels last April demonstrated that balancing environmental and agricultural security remains a priority both in Europe and at the International level. The impact of climate change on global agriculture was mentioned by many being a true concern for all stakeholders, including Europeans. There would be both, greater volatility and a stronger need for environmental security. The three main key points of the Forum debate are around the need, as farmer, to deliver food and environmental security, the need to deliver sustainable intensification so; how to do more with less, and deliver profits

During the first panel, Vasco Cal, Adviser, Bureau of European Policy Advisers of the President of the European Commission presented the findings of the European Commission study on trends and global issues for 2030. Vasco Cal continued his speech about the major challenges and the role that the European Union plays in the world. Mr. Cal highlighted that "The European Union must be an instrument of the Member States to have at global level, to shape globalization, according to our values and according to our interests, to act united at world level. Europe is still one of the areas of the world where science is most developed, where we have better system to develop science, but we are not able to translate these advances in science, in innovation, in change and in growth in many areas. This is a societal challenge, not only an economic challenge."

The Romanian Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Daniel Constantin, said during his opening speech that: "The trend in Europe is that farming should be done in close connection with a protected environment and Romanian authorities will continue to make



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efforts to adapt to the new conditions". Further to his speech, the Minister of Agriculture said that the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is greener and that 30% of the National Rural Development Program budget in all Member States should be allocated to reconciliation measures and to agricultural-environment measures.

In the context of the debate on how to link competitiveness with environmental protection in the Romanian agriculture landscape, the Romanian Minister also said that "Romanian agriculture did not affect the environment over the past 50 years. In the last seven years, farmers, small or large, became equipped and adopted technologies that were not harmful to the environment. I think this is the trend at European level and so it must be in Romania. The agriculture cannot exist without a protected environment and the environment cannot exist without an underdeveloped agriculture". The Forum was also attended by representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, with the presence of Mrs. Luminita Ghita, Head of Sustainable Development Unit, Romanian Ministry of Environment and Climate Change who highlighted that "Agriculture is the closest to the field. The green economy is a new direction for Europe and it may become a model only if it is customized for each Member State."

The 160 delegates attending the regional FFA discussed about the problems of agriculture in Romania such as cooperatives, access to new technologies like biotechnology, seed treatment technology and subsidies. The president of LAPAR, Laurentiu Baciuc said that farmers are interested in protecting the environment, so that arable land remains fertile and can be continuously exploited by the next generations. Mr. Baciuc raised warning about certain decisions taken at national or European level, which can encumber the efforts of Romanian farmers and create them difficulties. "Unfortunately for us, decisions are taken at national and European level which often can do more harm than good to Romanian farmers and this happens due to lack of communication or other interests."

The 7th Forum for the Future of Agriculture – Regional event in Bucharest was focused on the food and environmental challenges: How to sustainably produce more with less and trade better. The 7th edition of the Forum gathered more than 160 participants and a group of key speakers including Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, ELO Secretary General, Daniel CONSTANTIN, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Dacian CIOLOS, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Vasco CAL, Adviser Bureau of European Policy Advisers (BEPA) of the President of the European Commission, David KING, Former Head of International Relations, SAF Agriculteurs de France, Alexandru LĂPUȘAN, Economist and Director – Research Institute for Agricultural Economy and Rural Development (ICEADR), Konstantin KOSTOPOULOS, former Head of Cabinet of EU Commissioner for Environment Stavros DIMAS, Chief Operating Officer for the Wildlife Estates (WE), Paul DELESENNE, Managing Director, Forest Value Investment Management (Luxembourg), Laurențiu BACIU, President of LAPAR, Luminița GHITA, Head of Sustainable Development Unit, Romanian Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Frederik Nicolaas van EVERDINGEN, Young Friends of the Countryside, Czech Republic, Mark TITTERINGTON, Head of Corporate Affairs EAME, Syngenta, Arnaud PERREIN, Romanian south region maize growers association (APPRS).