

April 2010

## Editorial

As Franz FISCHLER, Chairman of the RISE Foundation and Chair of the Forum for the Future of Agriculture, said during his opening speech:

"Today's focus on the role of climate change in food production is particularly timely. Data manipulation by climate scientists has caused "Climate Gate". It has emboldened climate sceptics, who claim that recent global warming can simply be explained by natural variabilities. Scientific disputes about trends that are admittedly hard to measure don't mean that the challenges to our environment are any less great. Mainstream scientists are actually more and more worried and find that the evidence of global warming is worse than the IPCC assessment of 2007, when Nicholas STERN emphasized that climate change is the biggest market failure ever. This is even truer today (...) Clearly, the new CAP will have to give proper weight to food, ecology and climate change".

We are seeing a change in mentality and consumers are valuing fresh and local produce more and more. People are looking for reasonable, fresh food and are becoming more aware of where it comes from.

We need a new mindset to understand the role of public goods delivered by land managers and in particular the environmental public goods. The results of this 3rd Forum for the Future of Agriculture which was organised jointly with Syngenta will provide answers and solutions to those and other challenges we currently face. These discussions will be also developed during satellite conferences in Budapest, Moscow and Marrakech.

Thierry de l'ESCAILLE

## 3rd Forum for the Future of Agriculture

*The Economics and Politics of Food v. Climate Change*



J. POTOCNIK

**C**an the CAP bring considerable benefits to our environment? Some would say that the "discovery" of agriculture was the first big step forward in the birth of civilization. It is hard to argue with this. What is more empowering than the ability to produce food? Today things are, as you would expect, a little more complicated.

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Thierry de l'ESCAILLE

Chief editor :  
Emmanuelle MIKOSZ

Rue de Trèves, 67  
B - 1040 Bruxelles  
Tel. : 00 32 (0)2 234 30 00  
Fax : 00 32 (0)2 234 30 09  
[countryside@elo.org](mailto:countryside@elo.org)

Internet Site :  
[www.elo.org](http://www.elo.org)

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F.FISCHLER, S.SACKUR, prof.J.N.BHAGWATI

Today agriculture is huge business, it is an activity that has many impacts on our natural resources - it is also of enormous social and cultural importance to us all. This is as true in Europe as it is in the rest of the world.

### So then we might ask just what do we expect from European agriculture?

One thing is certain - we are demanding much more than we used to. Today we want our agriculture to give us good quality, safe food; we want it to make sure it provides a good income for farmers; we want it to maintain the life of our rural areas... we even want it to preserve our cultural heritage.

We are asking a lot. From a relatively small number of people. Consider this - farmers represent only 4.7% of the EU's working population. Yet they manage nearly half of the EU's land area. Farming has a big influence on Europe's landscapes and the quality of its environment. Historically, the EU's Common Agricultural Policy - the CAP - as the main tool to support EU agriculture, has supported the rapid modernisation of farming and intensification of production.

It is also responding to these modern needs and pressures in a variety of ways, by promoting competitiveness in agriculture, ensuring secure food supplies, preserving the environment and the countryside while supporting viable, living rural areas.

But even though all these elements exist in our current agricultural policies - and have to be addressed properly, I want to discuss my area of professional expertise: the impact of agriculture on environment...

...and particularly how a future common agricultural policy might respond even better to today's environmental challenges.

In Europe today, we can observe both, negative and positive impacts of agriculture on the environment. Intensive agriculture can contaminate water and soil, damage biodiversity, while more traditional or extensive farming systems generally bring benefits to biodiversity, landscape, soil and water.

In the past, the Common Agricultural Policy has been adapted extensively to reflect our growing awareness of environmental issues, but there is still major room for improvement - particular with

regard to the extent in which we can integrate even more environmentalism into it.

This is even more the case if you consider that environmental issues such as water, soil and biodiversity protection and climate change mitigation and adaptation are recognized as key tasks for land use.

The CAP has been significantly modernised over the last 50 years. Since the early 1990s, progressively more environmental integration has taken place, and the worst environmental problems caused by CAP payments have also been removed. The main environmental assets of the CAP are now the environmental funding under Rural Development and the existence of cross-compliance. Cross compliance sounds technical, but in practice it simply means setting out a baseline of environmental rules.

These are all positives, for sure. However, much more environmental integration will be needed if the CAP is to support a broader environmental benefit to society. The European public is increasingly concerned about how we spend the European budget and also about the environment in general; and in particular they also worry about the impact of agriculture on the environment... Eurobarometer results show that 1 in 3 Europeans think that promoting respect for environment should be one of the priorities of EU agriculture policy.

What does this mean? It means that the CAP needs to be able to provide environmental public goods and services. We need to put forward the proposals to make this happen and let CAP deliver them to the European public. This means digging deep into the substance of

the CAP – we need much more than just green window dressing.

### **But how exactly should we change CAP to realise this?**

We know that farmers, especially those working small farms, have been badly hit by the crisis. We have to listen to them and take their concerns seriously into consideration. The way I see it - but this all is still open for discussion - it seems reasonable that the future CAP will continue to support viable farming by some sort of area based payments. But looking from an environmental point of view, instead of using the historical model of payments, I personally would rather think of flatter area payments, which are genuinely decoupled from production.

Of course, the level of these payments may be different according to region and type of land use and land specificity - for example, a higher payment for farms having a higher proportion of permanent grassland. I use this example because it is an important one. Permanent grassland is under threat from increasing arable need and also crucial for maintaining biodiversity and in mitigation of the impact of climate change. For all these environmental reasons, we should maintain these so-called high

nature value (HNV) farming, and one of the options – still to be discussed – could be to promote this by using such differentiated payments.

What is so vital from the environmental point of view is that we link cross compliance to all such area-based payments. I know that cross compliance is still a heavy administrative burden despite several attempts to make it simpler. But I'm ready to see, together obviously with my colleague responsible for agriculture policy, Mr ÇIOLOS, how we can make it easier to deliver and implement for farmers. At the same time cross compliance should remain targeted firmly at its environmental objectives. We could, for example, look into how to exchange best practice in implementing it – and teach farmers how to use it and help them change their ways to meet new requirements.

In all this, we should not lose sight of the fact that while we use cross compliance to generate benefits for the environment... things like biodiversity conservation, water and soil quality and pesticide reduction... we need to continue improving in the future. Cross compliance might include introducing – as mandatory requirements - minimum



areas of natural features devoted to biodiversity or crop rotation; it might eventually include respect for other environmental laws (for example under the Water Framework Directive).

If we look even further at this more targeted approach to environment and climate change in the CAP, we can't ignore Rural Development, currently the 2nd pillar of the CAP. This is without doubt the major funding instrument for environmental integration in rural areas, with about 37 billion Euros going to agri-environmental measures between 2007 and 2013. Under this the CAP pays farmers and forest owners for their environmental services in support of biodiversity, water, soil, landscape and climate change. Many other Rural Development measures also help the environment, like farm investments in new technology that can save energy and limit water consumption.

Despite this, funds for Rural Development represent only a small part of the CAP budget, and with all the environmental and climate challenges ahead of us, to my view, and speaking in the capacity of commissioner responsible for environment, a bigger share of Rural Development will be needed, and within this share, we must allocate more to agri-environmental measures. These measures support farmers who voluntarily engage in environmentally friendly farming practices and who go beyond what cross compliance demands of them. Current Rural Development is also making sure Natura 2000 sites are financed - these make a crucial contribution to maintaining biodiversity and are under continuous pressure for other land uses. This challenge has not been taken up fully by the Member States and we hope in the future to push for an increase

of Rural Development measures, which aim to maintain the good conservation status of Natura 2000 sites.

As I have been saying since my first speech to the European Parliament back in January 2010, the mainstreaming of environmental objectives in other EU policies is one of my major priorities for this mandate. Natural resources and their relation to the Common Agricultural Policy is an area where this approach seems particularly appropriate, as agriculture needs the best quality soil and water. And we cannot afford to waste water or soil quality because this will have a direct knock-on effect on productivity. We need nothing less than a CAP that respects these resources and promotes the practices that use them in a sustainable and resource efficient way. We also need a CAP that can invest in protecting and restoring them when they have been degraded, contaminated or polluted.

### **This is the base for a viable agriculture of the future.**

On the other hand, and as I hope I have made clear by now, many of the environmental measures needed to protect biodiversity, soil and water and to achieve climate change adaptation and mitigation need to take place on farms. Supporting environmental integration helps to deal with the challenges we face in our environment as a result of climate change. An environmentally friendly agriculture is a resilient agriculture, it is a resource efficient agriculture that can respond to the challenges of today and can deliver food security and quality, sustainably. This all points to one thing: farmers, other land-users and environmental defenders have a huge common interest, and it would be wise to work together.

If we can achieve a very significant and profound "greening" of the CAP – not the greenwash we know will get us nowhere – we can also get the stronger public support we need for continuing the high level of CAP financing. All the signs are that the public expect CAP funding to be delivering real environmental-friendly public goods, and this is a very clear means to meet these expectations. With such reasoning, I can see somewhere in the future an EU policy that would be called something like "Common Agricultural and Environmental policy". But this is of course an idea that needs some further thinking and discussion.

\* \* \*

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
I'm a farmer's son. My father is 87 and has this winter done more skiing than I did.  
Bill BRYSON, the American writer said that there are only three things that can kill a farmer: lightning, rolling over in a tractor, and old age. Let's make sure we help our farmers – and the land they use for us, continue to live long and prosper.

■ Janez POTOČNIK  
European Commissioner for  
Environment

(Commissioner POTOČNIK was delivering the key not speech in the afternoon session of the FFA'10, the version above is the official written version.)

## Sustainable Food Policies and Markets in an Unsustainable World

**B**efore talking about the example of Malawi, I would like to emphasize one word; this word is 'partnership'. In order for Europe, Africa, and the world to produce enough food, and to insure food security, we need to enter into a stronger partnership. This partnership needs to be based on symmetry.



F.SIMON, A. SARRIS, Amb. B. NDISALE, D. RYLKO

This symmetry is the economic divide. On one side you have Europe which is developed, where the rural areas are limited and the population is very small. On the other, there is Africa, with a rural population of 80 per cent and are heavily dependent on agriculture. There is a symmetry and economic divide in the support for this very important sector. In Europe if you look at the distributional structure of the green box subsidy, a study by the international center for trade and sustainable development has indicated that the system absorbs 50 per cent of the European budget, and benefits only 2 per cent of the population. In addition, the system concentrates 80 per cent of support on 20 per cent of farmers. In Africa, where we have over 75 per cent of the population who are dependent on agriculture, less than 10 per cent of budgetary allocation goes into agriculture – a big divide. When we look at trade, Africa has not benefited, and the fingers are pointing at the unfair trade systems.

But, the economic partnership is there. For Africa and Europe we have the Cotonou Agreement, which encourages increased trade, development cooperation and increased political dialogue. But we also share

a common challenge, Climate change – all of our countries are suffering the consequences, although in Africa it is more prominent.

Financial Crisis – Europe and America sneezed, Africa is coughing, and if you let Africa cough America and Europe will get the flu.

### **So we need to work together to address these issues.**

#### **So what are the solutions?**

Political Leadership with vision – focusing on policy frameworks that will actually have a positive impact. Following four years of chronic food shortages, Malawi put into action a home based strategy focusing on agriculture and food security. Within the year of that policy, Malawi changed into a surplus producer of maize, and exported in 2007. Proof that the political will, translated into action had a positive effect. In addition, for the last four years Malawi has remained a net exporter of maize – Africa has the potential.

Investing more in agriculture – sources of growth coming from agriculture are more than twice as effective, compared to non-agriculture investments. Investing in agriculture also addresses the poverty divide. Investment through technologies, increased research and development

must be undertaken. Africa needs modern seeds, in-organic fertilizers, modern irrigation technologies. Public/private partnerships need to be encouraged and developed. Market access - The Doha rounds have not been concluded, and Africa are the losers. In this case, we must insure that the international trade agreements are not harmful to developing countries.

Malawi has defined a growth development strategy that focuses on continuing the progress that was made on the previously mentioned short term policy. Other measures include climate change and resources management. At the same time the country is looking at developing social sectors.

■ Her Excellency  
Ambassador Dr. Brave NDISALE,  
Ambassador of the Republic of  
Malawi to Belgium and the EU

Mrs Ambassador was one of the panelists of the session Sustainable Food Policies and Markets in an Unsustainable World. All the speeches are available at [www.forumforagriculture.com](http://www.forumforagriculture.com).

## Climate Change & Agriculture: why the relationship matters?

*How should European agriculture mitigate and adapt to a changing climate?*

**S**tephen SACKUR, BBC, opened the 3rd session by asking the panel why the relationship between climate change and agriculture really mattered.



Sir C.TICKELL, C. FOWLER, S. SACKUR, J. ATKIN, T.de l'ESCAILLE

Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, Land Manager and Secretary General European Landowners' Organisation, started by making the point that agriculture and climate change are inextricably linked. He stated that although agriculture is a net-emitter of Green House Gases, and therefore part of the problem, it is also part of the solution. This sector has an enormous potential both to cut emissions and to contribute to the management of ecosystems through more meticulous supervision. It is the responsibility of the agricultural sector to both "adapt" and "mitigate" to the changing climate. He suggested that this could be achieved through more efficient, "or so-called precision farming techniques", which could include practices such as "appropriate bio-fuel production". However, these management decisions must be made bearing in mind the natural value of the area in question. The speaker also mentioned the idea of including the agricultural sector in the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) as well as other incentives to encourage farmers to become more environmentally sustainable, while continuing to produce enough safe and affordable food. He then noted

the fact that climate change is altering the optimal crop growth period and therefore may affect yields, especially in southern Europe where more heat-stress will make it a less suitable crop area. This will affect the world's poor and hungry far more than the wealthier north. He raised the point of the increasing population and demand for food. By 2050, 9 billion people will live on this planet, consuming on average 3,000 calories per day. This will require a near 70% increase in food, and up to 100% in some parts of the developing world. Before ending his statement, Thierry de l'ESCAILLE mentioned some farming techniques which will need to be cleverly employed to maximise food production.

John ATKIN, Chief Operating Officer, Syngenta, reminded the audience that agriculture is a net emitter of green house gases, and therefore has a very important relationship with climate change. He structured his statement through three points. Firstly, he stressed the point that de l'ESCAILLE had mentioned earlier. He declared that agriculture should not be categorised just as a problem, but instead as part of the solution. He

made the point that there is potential for increase intensive farming, and in fact that this would be the way forward, rather than enlarging the agricultural area though deforestation. Instead, John ATKIN noted that agriculture does not depend on bringing in more land, but by increasing yields via better pesticides, seeds and machinery. Secondly, he highlighted the difficulties in intensifying without additional damage to the environment, but stated that it is possible to do so and keep it safe for natural ecosystems. GMOs have a role here- that is to increase yields and keep them sustainable to satisfy the ever-growing demand for food. Thirdly, he discussed the position of the EU in the matter. He put the question to the audience, "Why not become a net exporter?" He also stated that the EU is reducing its emissions by decreasing deforestation.

Cary FOWLER's, Executive Director of the Crop Diversity Trust, first point was that for agriculture to adapt to climate change, crops will have to adapt to climate change- this will not be a trivial process. In the future, particularly in south Asia and sub Saharan Africa, crops will be experiencing temperatures that they have never experienced before. He went on to say that the coldest growing seasons will be hotter than anything experienced in the past and then described the possible climate extremes and how this will affect the crops (e.g. shorten the growing seasons). He then remarked that this is only thinking of the heat

element, which does not include the availability of water. Cary FLOWER made his second point based on the fact that genetic crops are a valuable resource and raised the question about how are we managing this material and are we ready to use it to adapt to climate change? To which he answered “no, not yet at least”. He then reassured the forum by saying that we could become prepared and briefly outlined a couple of steps we could take to reach this goal. This included a better communication of information between plant breeders.

Sir Crispin TICKELL, former Adviser to the British Prime Minister THATCHER & author of Climate Change & World Affairs, made reference to Paul and Anne EHRlich’s book *The Dominant Animal*. He spoke about how we (*the dominant animal*) have made “a mess... of the very thin surface of the planet on which we live”. He declared that we must all think differently not only about climate change and our responsibilities about what is happening, but also about agriculture, economics and eco services (on which we wholly

depend). On the topic of climate change, he reminded the forum that we now have the highest concentration of Greenhouse Gases in the atmosphere for 900 thousand years and that we know that there is a close relationship between the temperature on the surface of the earth and the quantity of Greenhouse Gases. He also stated that he prefers to refer to it as climate destabilisation, rather than change, as that is what we are experiencing at the moment. He also noted that human health is a factor to bear in mind while on this topic. With regard to agriculture, Crispin TICKELL made the point that countries have a responsibility to feed their population and that “markets are a useful tool, but not a master”. He also referred to the Chinese doctrine of ‘Clean Green Growth’ stressing that we need to think differently about economics and where value truly lies, which brings us to eco-services. These eco-services are frequently put at peril, not only by climate change (which will alter them but not destroy them), but also by agriculture, which can cause enormous damage to the environment. He stated that he is in favour of techno-



**BNP PARIBAS**  
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Contact:  
François de RADIGUÈS  
Tel: +32 (0)2 234 30 00

logy, “the question is which technology and how it should be applied”, and also GMOs (making sure that they do not run out of control). He stressed that eco-services must be respected and noted that the human population should be kept under control.

All the speeches as well as the full report is available on [www.forumforagriculture.com](http://www.forumforagriculture.com) .



## Sustainable Food Policies and Markets in an Unsustainable World



### Sustainable Food Policies and Markets in an Unsustainable World

With current trends, how can one feed the world in a sustainable fashion ?

Combat climate change

11% 

Birth control

10% 

Reform of the WTO

12% 

Innovation (e.g. Biotechnology)

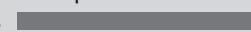
62% 

I don't know

4% 

How can one best fight world hunger ?

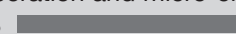
More food production and better distribution

32% 

Economic growth

13% 

More investment, development cooperation and micro-credits

30% 

Rural development

24% 

I don't know

1% 

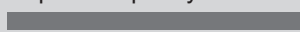
### Farming Competitiveness and Farm Policies

What is the best way to enhance domestic farm competitiveness ?

Applying new technologies

27% 

Fair competition policy for farmers

39% 


Farm restructuring

14% 

Free markets

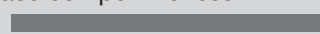
15% 

None of the above/I don't know

6% 

Should farm policies tend to :

Increase competitiveness ?

42% 

Preserve existing farming structures ?

3% 

Protect domestic producers ?

13% 

Help preserve the ecosystems ?

32% 

Support incomes ?

10% 



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**Climate Change & Agriculture : why the Relationship Matters ?**

How should European agriculture mitigate the changing climate ?

- High Value Nature production  
21%
- Production of renewable energies  
28%
- Extensification of production  
10%
- Reduction in animal production  
7%
- Precision farming  
34%

How should European agriculture adapt to the changing climate ?

- Enhance climate and agricultural research  
21%
- Strengthen role of agriculture as provider of ecosystem services  
40%
- Change production patterns and methods  
30%
- Increase irrigation  
3%
- Change land use  
5%

**The Role of Public Goods : are They the Missing Link ?**

Public goods provision is the missing link between agriculture and the environment.

- I fully agree  
40%
- I partially agree  
46%
- I do not agree  
10%
- I don't know  
4%

How can public goods delivered by land managers be best promoted ?

- Creating environmental markets (e.g. Emissions trading scheme)  
24%
- Public support  
27%
- Regulation  
11%
- Contracts for services  
30%
- Private initiatives (e.g. Clubs and societies)  
8%

## A Student's Perspective on the Future of Agriculture

**A**mong the 1,000 attendees to the Forum for the Future of Agriculture was a group of about 100 European students. The reason for their attendance was a special side event taking place in the Square that day: the Student Forum on the Future of Agriculture.

The organizers of the FFA, Syngenta and ELO, believe that we cannot discuss the future of agriculture if we do not include those people who represent the future. Indeed, the views of decision-makers, business people and the land managers

of the next generation must also be heard. At the Student Forum the 100 students debated their views on the challenges of climate change, and food and environmental security together with Professor BHAGWATI, MEP Mairead McGUINNES, CEO

of Syngenta John ATKIN, Vice President of the European Council of Young Farmers Donato FANELLI, and Mattias MEISNER of WWF. The students – coming from various academic disciplines such as Public Policy and Agricultural Studies – first asked their questions to the panelists. After this Q&A session, they voted upon several questions about the challenges in European and global agriculture. The voting resulted in the Student Manifesto, which was presented to the Chairman of the FFA Franz FISCHLER by Donato FANELLI, in the afternoon sessions. With this Manifesto, the students want to have their voice heard on what they believe is a better future of agriculture.

■ Fanny van der LOO

### AGRICULTURE NEEDS A BETTER FUTURE

Global population is rising and the projections for it touch 9 billion by 2050. Food consumption is expected to increase, not just by the number of mouths to feed but also by changing dietary demands.

At the same time, unresolved issues concerning trade, access to technology, and subsidy policies towards agriculture, coupled with ongoing challenges on the use of natural resources, will continue to put pressure on the supply side.

We believe that the top 3 priorities for policy makers in order to ensure a better future for agriculture in Europe should be:

1. Subsidies for farmers
2. Innovation
3. Environmental policies

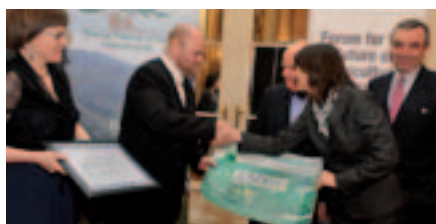
### WE BELIEVE IN THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE INTENSIFICATION OF FARMING WHICH IS ABOUT:

1. The production of safe, healthy, affordable food in Europe and ensuring our contribution to long term food security.
2. Ensuring the responsible use of natural resources.
3. Delivering combined economic, environmental, and social benefits.
4. The continuous improvement in science, technology, and knowledge transfer in farming.



## The presentation of the Environment and Soil Management Award by ELO and partners

**F**or the fifth time, ELO and its partners, under the patronage of Dr. Janez POTOČNIK, the European Commissioner for the Environment, and under the auspices of the European Commission (DG Environment and Joint Research Centre) were proud to give the «Environment and Soil Management Award».



**The members of the jury are experts in the field of soil and related sciences:**

- Mr. Winfried E.H. BLUM, European Confederation of Soil Science Societies (ECSSS); University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna, Austria. [Chairman]
- Mr. Thierry de L'ESCAILLE, ELO, member of the Committee ex officio, Brussels, Belgium
- Mr. Michael HAMELL, European Commission, DG ENV, Brussels, Belgium
- Ms. Marie-Cécile LEBAS, Syngenta International AG, Brussels Office, Belgium.
- Mr. Franc LOBNIK; University of Ljubljana; Biotechnical Faculty, Centre for Soil and Environmental Sciences, Ljubljana, Slovenia.
- Mr Luca MONTANARELLA; European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Institute for Environment and Sustainability; Ipsra, Italy.

This Award, which was created in 2006 by ELO in cooperation with the Universities in Vienna and Ljubljana and Syngenta International AG, is bestowed annually as recognition of the outstanding concepts and programmes favourable for a sustainable rural development through adequate soil management. The fundamental aim of this award is to foster new concepts of protection, their realisation and to improve awareness of the importance of such activities.

This year, five applications were received, each describing good management experiences. The applicants were not only from different Member States, but also from beyond the EU 27. All applications fulfilled the eligibility criteria and contribute to the protection of land and the soil by improving the quality of the environment.

In spite of the consistently high quality of each application, the jury, chaired by Professor Winfried BLUM decided to recognize the achievements of Mr. Erlendur BJÖRNSSON for his outstanding contribution to the development of a soil sensitive

and environmentally protective farming system at his farm in Iceland.

Mr. BJÖRNSSON received 2500 Euros and a diploma of recognition for his project "Little Things Mean a Lot". Taking into consideration the value of his land, he has tried to take good care of it since he started farming in 1980. His aim was to halt erosion, which was mainly caused by unsustainable land use in combination with harsh climate conditions and volcanic eruption. He also tried to reverse desertification processes, restore the damaged ecosystems, rebuild soil fertility and preserve biodiversity.

The award was given during a Gala Dinner on the 16th March 2010, an event which took place in Cercle Gaulois in Brussels. The event was opened by Mr. Thierry de L'ESCAILLE, Secretary General of the European Landowners' Organization and by a brief comment of Mr. John ATKIN, SYNGENTA Chief Operating Officer Crop Protection, which was then followed by a short speech by Ms. Vesna VALANT, on behalf of the European Commissioner Dr.

Janez POTOČNIK. The award was delivered by the President of the Jury, Professor Winfried BLUM. As highlighted by all the speakers, it is necessary to expand awareness of the importance and functions of soil as a non-renewable resource, crucial for environmental, social and even economic aspects of our lives. Environment and Soil Management Award contributes to this achievement by promoting good soil management practices.

ELO is currently welcoming applications for the sixth edition, which fulfil the criteria and contribute to the mitigation of threats that European soil faces nowadays. All information on the sixth edition will soon be available on the website <http://www.europeanlandowners.org/>

For this year's prize, the applications should be sent in before the 30 November 2010. Any requests for applications or further information can be submitted to the Awards Coordinator of ELO by post or email at [forest@elo.org](mailto:forest@elo.org).

■ Barbora BUCKOVA

## Paolo de CASTRO

### *“European Agriculture and new global challenges”*

Donzelli editore  
ISBN 978-88-6036-487-6

(...) The world is undergoing a transition which reflects the new demographic, climatic, ecological and economic reality. The issue of resource scarcity measured against growth dynamics imposes the constraint of sustainability across the board, but first and foremost on more developed areas: water, energy, and food are beginning to become scarce resources or at risk of scarcity. Scarcity is further challenged by another consequence of the great pressure upon productive resources in recent years, the phenomenon of climate change. All these elements are in strict connection with farming, and the function of soil management undertaken by the farmer.

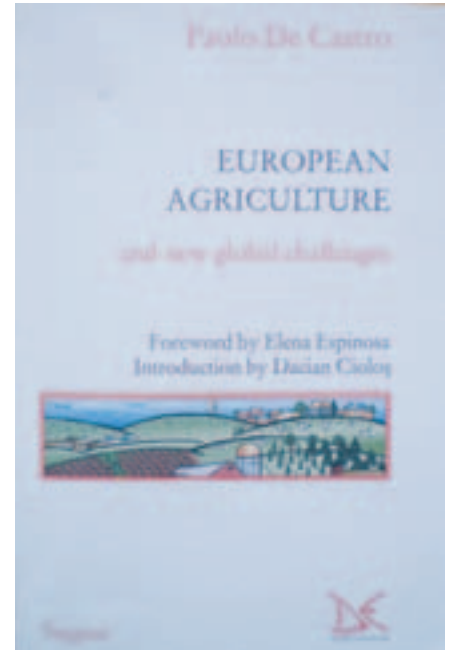
Clearly, one of the chief tasks of today's policy-makers are to promote the defence of farm production and area potential, incentivizing the

growth of collective values linked to the positive externalities that they generate.

(...) The time has come to reshape the CAP by strengthening its positive affects beyond 2013, emphasising two key aspects: competitiveness and sustainability. Only a competitive agriculture sector will be able to cope in an increasingly difficult environment on the international market; this should be done by emphasising European food supply specificity and quality. At the same time, we also need rural areas across Europe to stimulate a growth pattern and relationship with urban areas by preserving the valuable environmental services and culture which are a current hallmark of Europe (...)

■ Dacian CIOLOS  
European Commissioner for  
Agriculture and Rural Development

(Fragment of the introduction)



Paolo de CASTRO, 52 years old, is Full Professor of Agriculture Economics and Policy at the University of Bologna. From October 1998 until April 2000, and from 2006 to 2008 he was appointed as a Minister of Agricultural and Forestry Policy in Italy. In June 2009 he was elected to the European Parliament, where he is the Chairman of the Agriculture committee.

## Diary Dates 2010

### 4 May, Brussels

Green Capital seminar - «Stockholm, European Green Capital 2010: Role model for Europe», being part of the European Green Capital <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/events.html>

### 4-5 May, Cambodia

ASEM Conference on «Forests, Forest Governance and Forest Products Trade: Scenarios and Challenges for Europe and Asia» <http://ec.europa.eu/>

[environment/forests/flegt\\_asem.htm](http://environment/forests/flegt_asem.htm)

### 27 - 29 May, Seville

ECPA Regulatory Conference [www.ecpa.be](http://www.ecpa.be)

### 28-30 May, Bonn

1st World Congress on Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/events.html>

### 1- 4 June, Brussels

Green Week: state of biodiversity and nature in

Europe and the world, organised by the EC DG Environment <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/home.html>

### 9 June, Riga, Latvia

International Rural Tourism Workshop: changing concept for quality [www.conferences.countryholidays.lv](http://www.conferences.countryholidays.lv)

### 17-19 June, Aix-en-Provence, France

Biodiversity : legal and economic imagination for the environment [www.icrei.org](http://www.icrei.org)



**Syngenta**

**Brussels Office**

**Avenue Louise, 240  
B - 1050 Brussels**

**Tel : +32.2.642 2727  
Fax : +32.2.642 2720**