

WILDLIFE ESTATES Initiative

"WE act for biodiversity"



WE TRAINING COURSE IN MADRID:

Within the search for excellence in the evaluation of Estates, the scientific committee of WE, organized on July 23 and 24 the course of evaluators at the Polytechnic University of Madrid. Forestry Engineers and Agronomists met during two sessions to learn about the basic methodology and foundation of the initiative. Dr. Carlos Otero was responsible for transmitting the values and the background philosophy in Wildlife Estates, together with the theoretical-scientific justification of the methods used when filling out the questionnaire.

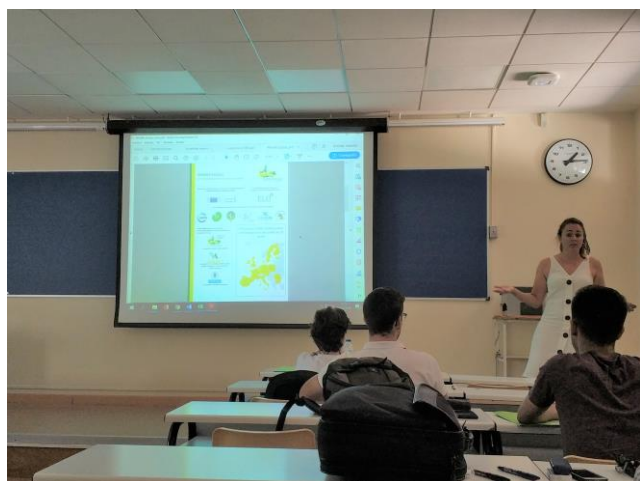


In the photo the new graduates in the second course of evaluators

Alejandro Pérez Muñoz, Galina Peicheva, Ants Varblane, Alberto Gómez, Antonio Maroto, Pelayo de la Fuente, Alfonso Yravedra, Yago Fontcuberta, Federico Casas, Gabrielle Cubillo and José M^a Gómez-Acebo are from now on our new evaluators who will help us in the Label expansion.

With these, they already add more than 150 evaluators throughout Europe, with the aim of achieving 2 million hectares at the end of the year.

Good luck!



ELO considerations on the CAP post 2020 proposal:

The CAP has long helped support Europe's agriculture and rural areas. It tries to encourage viable farming, sound management of natural resources and balanced territorial development. There is no great disagreement amongst most stakeholders that the pervasive market failures and market imperfections in the food and agricultural sector justify significant collective policy action with commensurate budget resources.

The current budget cuts proposed for the CAP represent a threat to the continued success of rural communities, especially in the face of extra conditions that will be demanded by the Strategic Plans. If Europe is serious about its ambitions, especially those related to climate change and biodiversity, then it needs to properly fund the CAP instead of cutting its annual budget by nearly 25% over the coming period, particularly for rural development.

The ELO welcomes the move towards performance in the current proposal, instead of compliance. The new delivery model is an opportunity to develop a different culture for policy design and implementation, both between the EU and Member States and between authorities and the land managers on the ground. The delivery of meaningful results is best achieved if the engagement of the parties

is based on trust and accountability, rather than on mere compliance with a set of rules. This can be achieved by ensuring the involvement of farmers and landowners in the decision-making process and by optimizing procedures through digitalization. This reform needs to allow the modernization of the sector, which is already happening in other parts of the world.

The most radical thinking in the paper concerns the new decentralized delivery model which devolves a lot of control to the Member States. However, mechanisms need to be in place to ensure sensible subsidiarity and avoid dangerous divergence and distortions of the internal market.



WE Management in Spain used as a fire preventing tool:

Every time we hear about fire in Spain we do not hear the names of hunting estates under a sustainable management. All estates under a sustainable hunting management have guards every 2000-3000 hectares, so at the minimum hint of fire or smoke they are able to reach and extinguish it.

They are the best fire preventing tool because they live there and know exactly where the fire is happening. Also the guards are connected with the local authorities or other guards, being the response even faster, and when the local administration is informed about the fire, it is already extinguished.

All the roads inside the game area made for access the shooting zones and the estate management, allow quick access to the fire. The forest firebreak which are used for shooting purposes in the Spanish "Monteria" are also a tool to stop the fire spread.

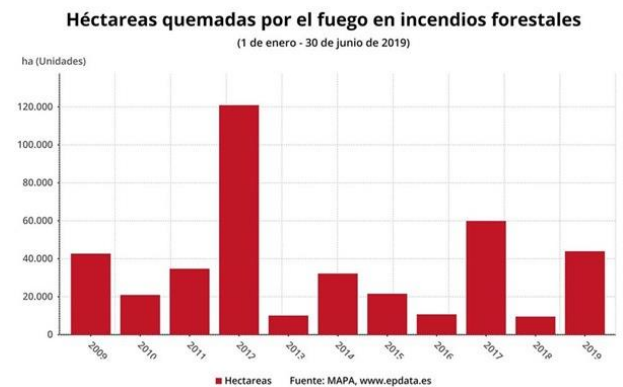
The water points distributed all over the hunting area to water the animals can be used by the firetrucks and helicopters to stock up of water to fight the fire, instead of traveling high distances to the closest water source.

Also carved areas and crops for animal pasture, are natural discontinuities that will slow the fire avoiding a fast spread.

All these factors show us that a managed area for hunting has all the necessary

tools to prevent fires and their rapid spread.

Wildlife Estate label evaluates in its questionnaire all the topics above mentioned to ensure the sustainable management of every candidate Estate to the label. Looking for excellence and respect for wildlife within the Estate. Not only for hunting uses but as an indicator of respect and good management of the species.



Forest fires devastate almost 44,000 hectares in the first half of 2019, almost five times more than a year ago. The importance of control all over the Estates is essential to avoid greater losses. The work of national delegations is essential to make local governments aware of the efficient management of Estates according to the WE Label.

A properly managed Estate is a Estate without fire.



Ursula von der Leyen's political guidelines for the next European Commission: an ENVI and AGRI approach

The proposed new European Commissioner has made an agenda with her aims. We will focus on the topics that can be relevant for all the WE members.

A European Green deal:

Her desire of Europe being the first climate-neutral continent:

Fulfilling the desire of European voters on having real action on climate change making Europe lead the way. This challenge will need investing in innovation and research redesigning the economy and updating the industrial policy.

She will achieve these goals by proposing a European Green Deal on her first 100 days in office, including the first European Climate Law to enshrine the 2050 climate-neutrality into law. Justifying the good track for the Paris Agreements pushes to go further and faster for climate-neutrality in 2050, being more ambitious with the 40% emissions reduction by 2030 trying to reach 55% emissions reduction.

A proposal to extend the Emissions Trading System to cover maritime sector and reduce the free allowances allocated to airlines. Complementing this work a Carbon Border Tax will be introduced to

avoid carbon leakage, starting with a number of selected sectors and gradually extended. Also, the Energy Taxation Directive will be reviewed.

A future-ready economy plan will be put forward to help the change by using circular economy and clean technologies, decarbonizing energy-intensive industries.

Cohesion funds play a crucial role in supporting regions and rural areas, but is not enough. Pleading a just transition for all they will support the people and regions most affected through a new Just Transition Fund, leaving nobody behind.

A European Climate Pact will design a set of pledges to bring about a change of behavior from the individual to the largest multinational.

“A Sustainable Europe Investment Plan”: Those who act first and fastest will also be the ones who grasp the opportunities from the ecological transition. Record amounts will be invested in cutting-edge research and innovation using the full flexibility of the next EU budget to focus on the areas with the greatest potential.





But public finances alone won't be enough, they will tap into private investment by putting sustainable financing in the investment chain and financial system.

To achieve this a strategy for green financing and a Sustainable Europe Investment Plan will be put forward. Also, a proposal to turn parts of the European Investment Bank into Europe's Climate Bank by double the total financing dedicated to climate investment by 2025. The sustainable Europe Investment Plan will support €1 trillion of investment over the next decade in every corner of the EU.

Climate change, biodiversity, food security, deforestation and land degradation go together. "It's necessary to change the way we produce, consume and trade by setting new standards for biodiversity cutting across trade, industry, agriculture and economic policy". As a part of the European Green Deal a Biodiversity Strategy will be presented for 2030. Europe will work with its global partners to curtail biodiversity loss within the next five years. The vital work of the farmers they do to provide healthy goods to the Europeans needs to be preserved but this is only possible if they can make a decent living for their families. They will be supported with a new "Farm to Fork Strategy" on sustainable food along the whole value chain.

They will cherish to preserve our rural areas and invest in their future.

A New Circular Economy Action Plan will be proposed, focusing on sustainable resource

use, especially in resource-intensive and high impact sectors such as textiles and construction.

P.S: this statement is not clear as regards her intentions on the new CAP as proposed by the Commission

CONSOLE Project:

The European Landowners' Organization is a partner in a new H2020 project CONSOLE (CONTRACT SOLUTIONS for Effective and lasting delivery of agri-environmental-climate public goods by EU agriculture and forestry). A project that is focused on promoting innovation in the delivery of agri-environmental climate public goods by EU agriculture and forestry.

Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy is currently underway. Over previous decades, the agricultural sector along with policy has attempted to adapt and change to new circumstances and challenges. As climate change is top of the agenda for all industries, agriculture is no different. The movement towards Public Goods is seen as a means to deliver the environmental and social goods and services from agriculture and forestry that are not delivered through the market.

The CONSOLE multi-actor and multidisciplinary team brings together 24 partners in 13 countries, covering a range of representation from farmer organisations, regional administrations, consultancy companies, research institutions and water and forest management bodies

ELO will be participating to the co-design of research, and is Work Package Leader for dissemination and outreach. It will involve co-coordinating events and engaging with stakeholders thought the lifetime of the project. A key stakeholder for the project is the private landowner who is vital in the delivery of public goods on the ground. The project will co-create an empirically validated contractual framework as well as design and test effective and efficient contact models and support their implementation by multiple actors. During this project ELO will interact with its members and notably the WE members in order to share their input to the research team. Synergies with another important project, LIFE Land is for Ever will take place in order to gather information on the concrete needs of landowners supporting biodiversity provisions whilst undertaking rural activities.

It is expected that the research, outcomes and work carried out by the project will improve policy design towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular through environmental policies and the post-2020 CAP.



CONSOLE

EU-Mercosur Trade Agreement: “Better export opportunities for European farmers and food producers.

The agreement presents a balanced outcome that creates new opportunities for European farmers and food producers, while at the same time mitigates possible market pressure. European farmers and food businesses will gain unprecedented access to the countries of Mercosur, which represent a large market of 260 million people. This will be achieved by:

- removing high tariffs for main EU export products
- preventing imitation of EU traditional foodstuffs
- making food safety procedures clearer, more predictable and less cumbersome for EU exporters.

The agreement will eliminate high import duties on many products. For many of these products existing trade is high and in some cases is well below potential due to prohibitive duties.

Removing tariffs:

Product	Existing trade	Current tariff
Olive oil	€300 million	10%
Malt	€50 million	14%
Wine	€160 million	27%
Canned peaches	€3-5 million	55%
Spirits	€180 million	20%-35%
Chocolates	€65 million	20%

Product	Volume	Current tariff
Cheese	30 000 tonnes	28%
Milk powder	10 000 tonnes	28%
Infant formula	5 000 tonnes	18%

The EU is a major producer of high-quality regional food and drink products. In the EU, such products are protected under the 'Geographical Indications' (GI) system, a guarantee to consumers that such produce is genuinely made in their specific region of origin using ancestral know-how and techniques. The GI system provides EU producers with a premium price for their product and allows them to strengthen their position in the market.

Thanks to the EU-Mercosur Agreement, some 350 European GIs will now also be protected from imitations in the four Mercosur countries. This is the largest deal ever made on Geographical Indications within a trade agreement.

Careful opening of markets:

The agreement takes European farmers' sensitivities fully into account and respects their interests. As in other trade agreements, the EU will not fully open its market for imports of agri-food products.

For sensitive products, access to the EU market will be granted in a limited and strictly controlled way, taking into account concerns of European farmers and consumer preferences.

This will be achieved through carefully calibrated quotas, to be gradually implemented, in most cases in six equal annual stages.

In certain conditions, including in case of a sudden increase of imports causing serious market disturbance for EU producers, the agreement makes it possible to apply safeguard measures to protect EU farmers.

This mechanism will apply to all products, including the sensitive ones, for which limited quotas are proposed. Other specific safeguards exist for the EU's outermost regions.

The Commission also stands ready to assist farmers to make any necessary adjustments, with a financial support package of up to €1 billion in the event of market disturbance. This will reinforce the support available to farmers through the Common Agricultural Policy, and will provide an important safety net for farmers and an essential income support, if needed.



Beef:

EU beef production and prices have shown stable patterns in the last 5 years. Thanks to an increase in exports to existing partners, coupled with the opening of new key markets, overall beef exports are projected to increase by 15% in 2019, consolidating the EU's position as a net exporter of beef.

The EU currently imports around 200,000 tons of beef cuts every year from Mercosur countries. These imports cater mostly for the high value market segment, dominated by European production and facing increasing consumers' demand.



This is why more than a quarter of this amount (around 45 000 tonnes of "fresh" beef and a further 10,000 tonnes of frozen beef) enters the EU market despite being subject to a 40%-45% duty.

Under the agreement, the EU will allow 99,000 tonnes of beef (55% of which is for "fresh", high quality beef, and the remaining 45% for "frozen" beef) to enter its market with a 7.5% duty. This represents 1.2% of the total European beef consumption (8 million tonnes every year).

Poultry:

EU poultry consumption grew steadily from 11 million tonnes in 2005 to more than 14 million tonnes in 2018. That is average consumption growth of over 230,000 tonnes per year.

Currently the EU imports 800,000 tonnes of poultry every year, of which over half comes from Mercosur. In parallel, EU exports are at 1.6 million tonnes, giving the EU a stable trade surplus of 800,000 tonnes.

Under the agreement, the EU will allow a quota of 180,000 tonnes to be imported duty-free. This amount will be phased-in over five years after the entry into force of the agreement. This volume amounts to far less than one year of observed average long-term consumption growth and corresponds to 1.2% of current consumption.

Sugar:

The EU was in 2018 a large net exporter of sugar with exports of 2.1 million tonnes.

For its sugar exports to the EU, Brazil has until now been using a tariff quota allocated under the EU's WTO schedule with an in-quota duty.

With the agreement, 180,000 tonnes of sugar for refining will be allowed into the EU duty-free under this existing quota. No new sugar quota will be created for Brazil. A new duty-free quota of 10,000 tonnes was agreed only for Paraguay. Specialty sugars are excluded from the agreement.

The agreed amounts cover a volume accounting for 1% of EU sugar consumption, which is around 19 million tonnes and remains stable.

Honey:

While domestic production has substantially grown, the EU has increasingly had to rely on foreign honey to meet demand and now imports around 45% of what it consumes. Current EU imports from Mercosur amount to around 35,000 tonnes.

The agreement will open a honey quota of 45,000 tonnes, to be imported duty-free after a gradual duty reduction over a 5-year period. This quota is expected to include the current imports.



Rice:

Existing rice imports from Mercosur amount to around 100,000 tonnes a year on average. The agreed quota is therefore much less than the amount which the EU already imports and amounts to 2.2% of EU consumption of 2.7 million tonnes, almost half of which needs to be imported.

Moreover, Mercosur produces indica rice and therefore does not compete on the more sensitive japonica segment of the EU rice

market, which constitutes the bulk of EU production (around 75%). 80% of indica rice consumed in European comes from imports. The quota under EU-Mercosur agreement will therefore maintain the already existing supplies from Mercosur.

The volume of the rice quota in the agreement will be 60,000 tonnes, duty-free, with a gradual tariff reduction over 5 years. The new quota is expected to include the current imports.

Source: <http://trade.ec.europa.eu/c>

La Ronca is consolidated as a hunting and dispersal territory for young "dameros" individuals of Imperial Eagle (*Aquila adalberti*).

Adult specimens are observed regularly throughout the year, but in the months of June to October, it is the juvenile specimens that find here a great abundance of prey species such as Common rabbit, Iberian hare, Red legged partridge, and an endless number of associated species such as Wood pigeon, European bee-eater, European roller, Golden oriole, Common turtledove, Hoopoe, Little Bustard, Stone curlew or Red-necked nightjar.



Photo 1. Imperial Eagle (Damero) in La Ronca.

Agosto 2019- C. Otero

Photo 2. Imperial Eagle (Damero). A.M. Romero

Upcoming events

- **September 3rd - 4th, 2019 – Wildlife Estates Initiative Plenary Session: “Cultivate & Protect”.** Esterházy Betriebe estate; Eisenstadt; Burgenland; Austria.
- **September 26th, 2019 – FFA Ireland.** Hilton Hotel. Dublin; Ireland



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Wildlife Estates coordinator: Jose M^a Gómez-Acebo. Tel. #: +32(0)22352006. Email: wildlife@elo.org
European Landowners' Organization. Trierstraat 67; 1040 - Brussel; Belgium
Website of the Wildlife Estates Initiative: www.wildlife-estates.eu