

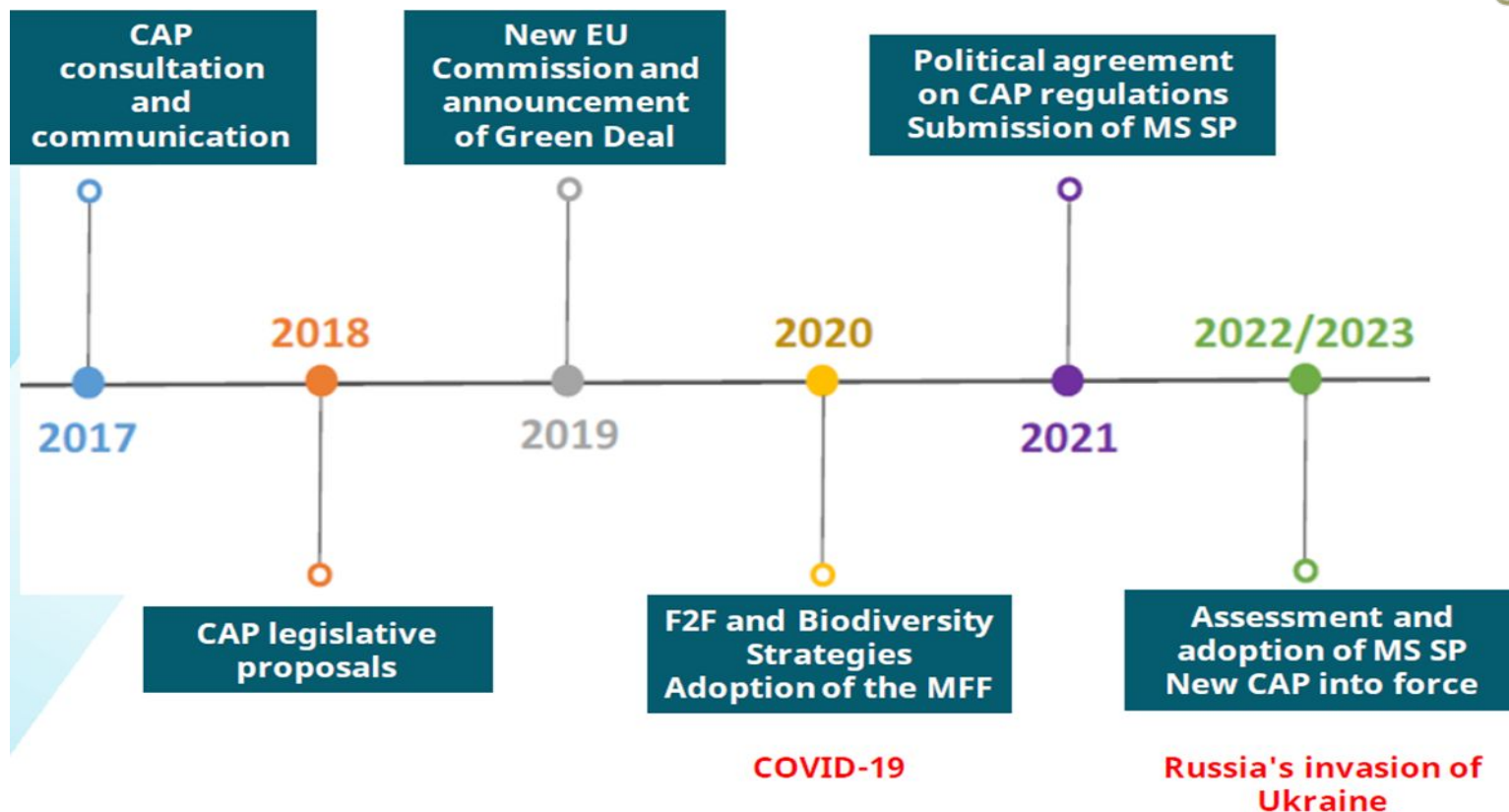


## **Land and (European) Policy**

Thierry de l'Escaille, Secretary-General



# Context





Farmers' protests led to a change in rhetoric, especially with elections looming

**New College**

## Strategic Dialogue

### Technical Workshops and other meeting fora– CDG and MS

- Resilience
- Food security
- Sustainability
- Governance
- Rural communities

### Response to farmers' concerns

- Short / Medium term actions on simplification
  - Incl. survey to collect farmers' views
- Proposal for modification basic act
- Actions to improve position of farmers in the food chain

**New CAP proposal (?)**

**MFF Adoption**

**EP Elections**

Oct 2023    Dec 23    Feb 24    Apr 24    Jul 24    Sept 24    Nov 24    Dec 24    Mar 25    May    Jul. 25



# EU policy priorities

- ❑ **Strategic Autonomy**
- ❑ CAP
- ❑ Farm2Fork
- ❑ Biodiversity
- ❑ Forests & Forestry
- ❑ Climate & Carbon
- ❑ Natural Resources
- ❑ Digitalisation



## Strategic Dialogue on Agriculture

Thierry de l'Escaille, on behalf of the ELO, is one of 27 experts to put his views forward in a series of thematic meetings in an attempt to gather consensus about the future of the sector, by the summer.





## Other Dialogues Clean Transition

- Hydrogen
- Energy-intensive industries
- Clean tech
- Energy infrastructure
- Critical raw materials
- Cities
- Clean mobility
- Steel





## Strategic Autonomy

Food security remains on the agenda

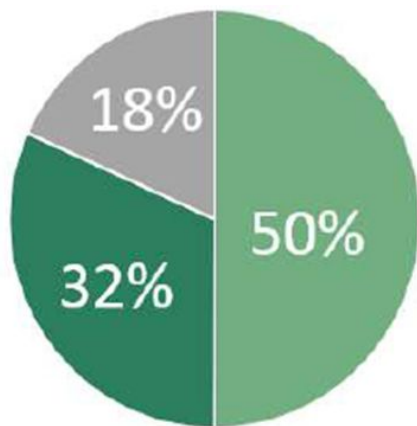
- Progresses made over the last 50 years but **economic inequalities** across and within countries remain the main explanation of food insecurity
- **And 3 main disruptors:**
  - **Conflicts** (domestic and international)
  - **Climate** (flood, drought, pests & disease)
  - Economic **Crisis** and slowdown (income, price shocks)
- Slowdown of agricultural productivity



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## A greener CAP

- Income support subject to conditionality related to environment and climate
- Targeted instruments in support of environment, climate and animal welfare
- Remaining CAP spending

Link  
with other  
legislation

158 eco-schemes

€ 44.7 bln targeting  
24% of Direct  
Payments

70% of EU farmland

Rural development  
€ 33.2 bln  
48 % EAFRD

Agri-env-clim on 15% of EU farmland  
Natura 2000/WFD compensation  
(5% Natura 2000 agri/forests)  
Green investments  
Areas facing natural constraints

Sectoral  
support  
min. € 830

(15% fruit &  
vegetables  
5% wine)

Knowledge  
&  
information

Risk  
managem  
ent

conditionality

Definitions – relevant criteria for eligible areas relevant to environment

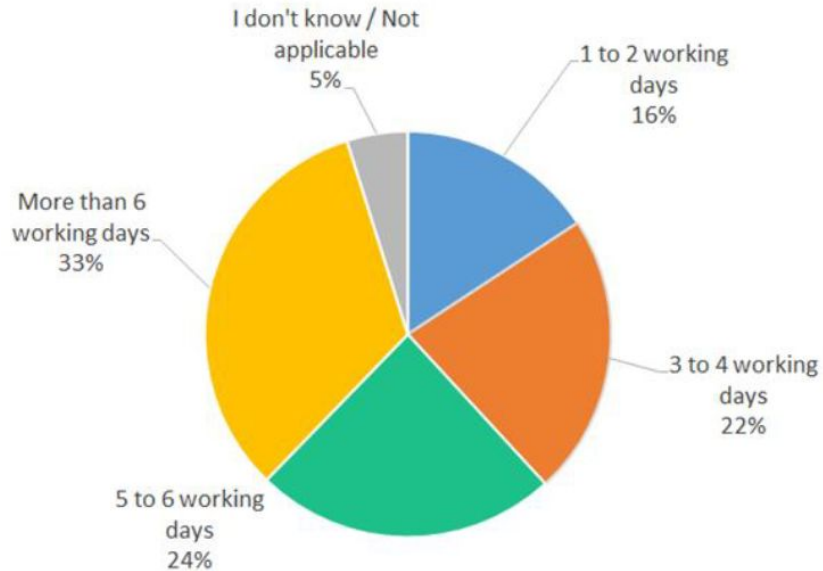
But also more  
complex...



# Administrative burden

Time spent annually on administrative tasks linked to  
application(s) of CAP aid, including documentation for conditionality

% of farmers applying for CAP support



## CAP simplification

- Legal proposal adopted on 15 March 2024
- Changes to conditionality rules (GAECs & controls) and CAP plan amendments:
  - Revision of the EU methodology for the Area Monitoring System quality assessment to significantly **reduce the number of on-farm visits**
  - Explanatory note on the use of the concept of **force majeure and exceptional circumstances**
  - Improvement of the **CAP plan amendment procedure**
  - Note on **advisory services** & supporting farmers in green transition
  - Clarification of the possibilities of using **geo-tagged photos** under existing legislation and review of the requirements linked to geo-tagged photos (May/ June)

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## FARM TO FORK → Targets for 2030



Reduce by 50% the overall use and risk of **chemical pesticides** and reduce use by 50% of more **hazardous pesticides** - **SUR WITHDRAWN BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Achieve at least 25% of the EU's agricultural **land under organic farming** and a significant increase in organic aquaculture.

Reduce **nutrient losses** by at least 50% while ensuring no deterioration in soil fertility; this will reduce use of **fertilisers** by at least 20%

# Farm to Fork



## 50-65%

reduction targets for the use and risk of PPPs

**WITHDRAWN**



- unreasonable targets & a tight deadline with no real alternatives
- lack of predictability regarding the values of the Harmonized risk indicators
- Sensitive areas definition under heavy criticism
- Farmers need to be incentivized to take on IPM
- Lack of comprehensive impact assessment
- EU's commercial partners voicing criticism

## SUSTAINABLE USE REGULATION (SUR)

### CURRENT STATUS

The proposal was withdrawn by the European Commission in February 2024, after having been rejected by the European Parliament in November 2023.

- ➔ It is foreseeable that a new proposal tackling the use of PPPs could be published in the coming working programme

# Farm to Fork



## BIOCONTROL

In response to the withdrawal of the SUR, ELO is ramping up efforts to drive biocontrol innovation in the EU's agricultural sector.

### Key actions are underway:

- **Manifesto:** ELO is advocating for its integration into agricultural practices to push policy agendas towards sustainability.
- **Dinner Debate:** a stakeholder dinner to discuss the critical role of biocontrol in sustainable agriculture has been organised in April 2024.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** actively engaging stakeholders to streamline biocontrol product market access and establish a clear EU biocontrol definition. ELO Joined the Biocontrol Coalition in May 2024.





## NEW GENOMIC TECHNIQUES

### TIMELINE:

- **European Commission:** Proposal tabled in July 2023
- **European Parliament:** position adopted on 6 Feb 2024
- **Council of the EU:** discussion ongoing in AGRI-FISH

**RECENT DEVELOPMENTS:** The EP has requested a scientific opinion from EFSA regarding the categorization NGTs following concerns raised by some national agencies.

**WHAT IS NEXT:** the regulation has been handed over to the next Parliament; a Council decision is still pending.



# Farm to Fork



## SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Measures to mainstream sustainability in all food related sectors:

- **legally-binding principles and objectives** for all relevant legislation, including the CAP
- **\*minimum sustainability requirements** for both EU and non-EU entities
- **\*sustainability labelling** - mandatory on products that make sustainability-related claims on their packaging

\*would be introduced through *secondary legislation*, which would overlook the democratic principles

!!!! The text was expected by the end of 2023, but it has been delayed. **Its publication date is now uncertain.**



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# Biodiversity

## Nature Restoration Law



- 1. The situation is frozen at the EU Council level**
- 2. Hard to predict the outcome before EU elections**
- 3. The ELO was clear from the beginning about the flaws of the proposal**

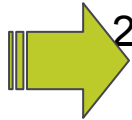
**Tbc...**



# Biodiversity

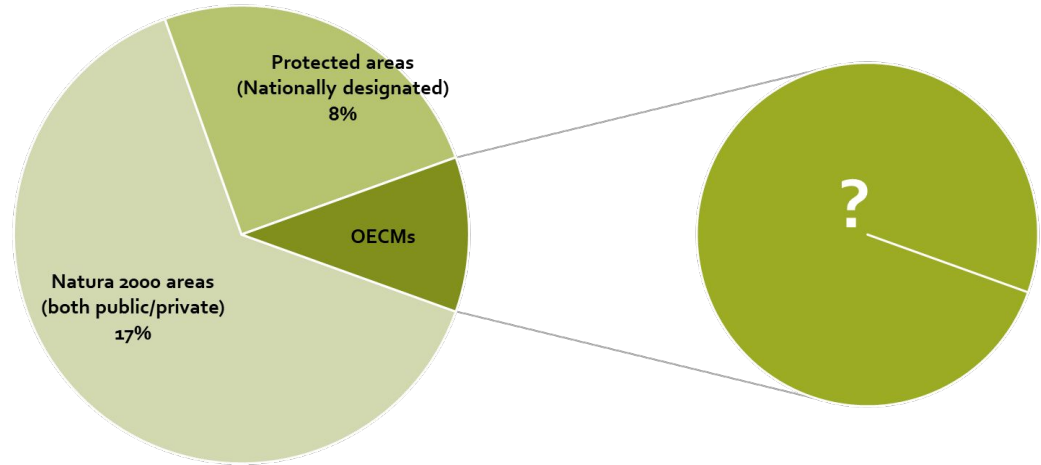
## Other Effective area-based Conservation Methods (OECMs)

- ❏ CBD 2018 : legal definition
- ❏ 2022 only guidelines at EU level
- ❏ ELO intends to lead the discussion at EU level: 1st strategic discussion (29 April 2024) + Next 19 June 2024



Going beyond traditional conservation methods such as protected areas and strictly protected

### OECMs in the EU context



■ protected areas (governmental+ private) ■ OECMs ■ What areas are we talking about? ■ ?

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# Forest Monitoring law

## Forest Monitoring Framework set-up (Art3-8)

- **Geographically explicit identification system for "forest units"** (still no be defined)
- **FISE**: Forest data collection framework + Forest data sharing framework (IA on technical rules)
- **Data collected by EC** through standardisation using copernicus (opt out, Art6) (DA on accuracy standards and quality assessment)
- **Data collected by MS** based largely on NFIs, to be harmonised (DA on accuracy standards and quality assessment)
- **Additional forest data** (methodologies to be developed through IA)



Ridiculous amount of  
reliance on “co-decision”  
and secondary legislation



## Deforestation regulation

EU not ready for the implementation of the EUDR, expected to enter into application at the end of the year. Missing:

- **Clarifications and guidelines**
- **Technical tools**
- **benchmarking system:** while it is not done, all are to be considered at standard risk, rather than the lower risk European operators were expecting

This is already creating massive problems for farmers, foresters and others in the agri and forest value chains, as the system is not yet in place for operators to test and adapt to the new rules.

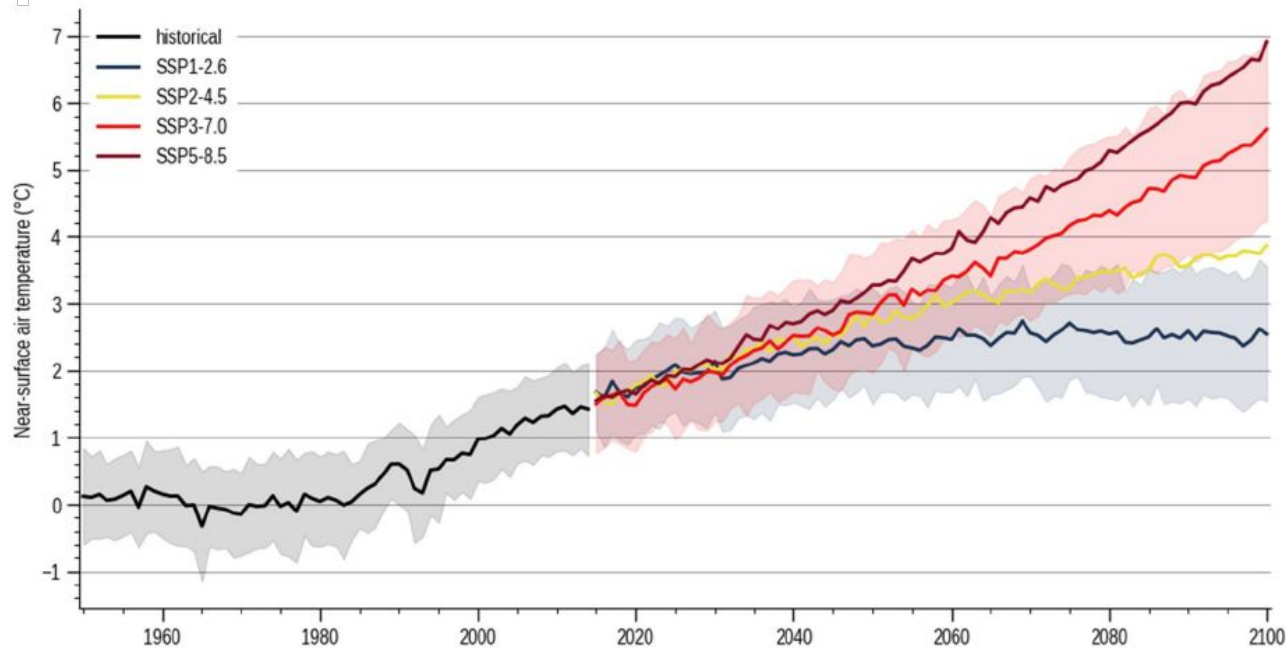


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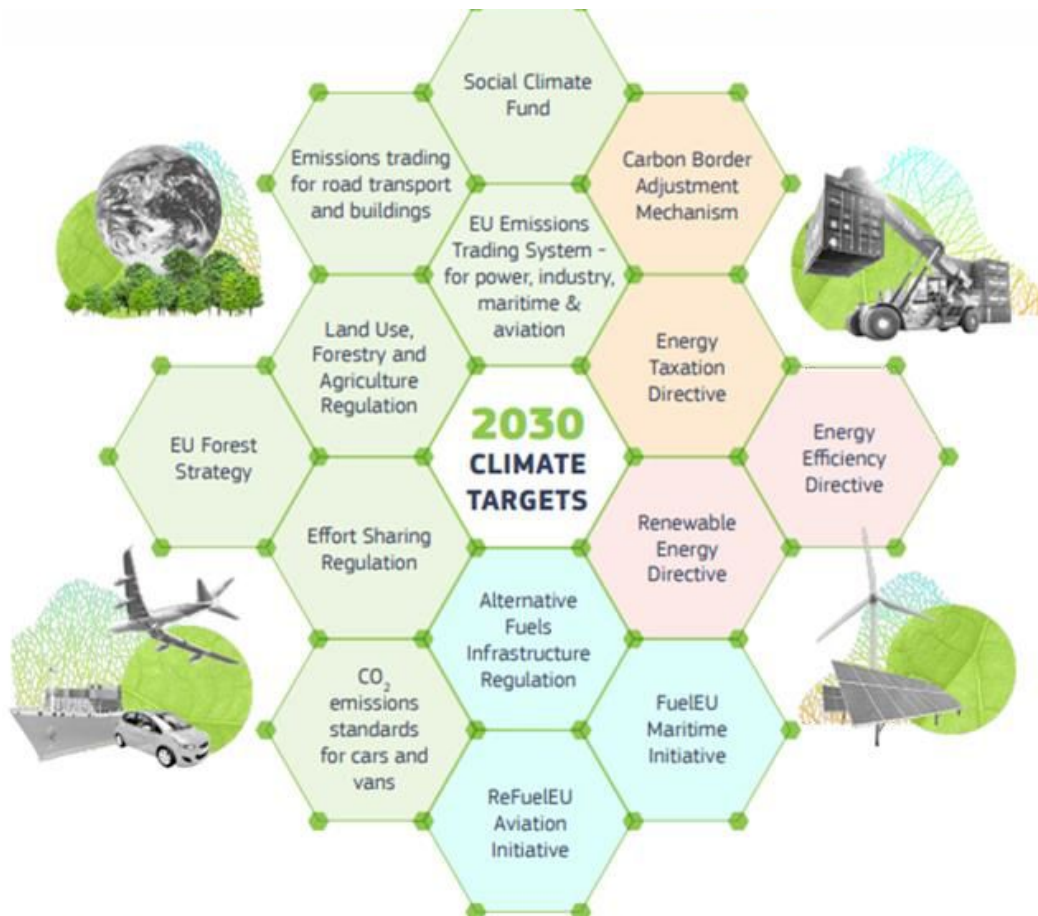
## The future: continued (strong) warming



Increase in European temperature compared to the preindustrial levels

**Climate Change**

## Climate Change



Drastically  
reduce  
emissions

+

Roughly  
double  
carbon  
removals



Climate  
neutrality

# Carbon Farming



Use of **conservation tillage, catch crops, cover crops** and increasing **landscape features**



Restoration, rewetting and conservation of **peatlands and wetlands**



**Forest Management and Reforestation** according to ecological principles



**Agroforestry** and other forms of mixed farming



**Precision farming** and more efficient use of fertilizers



**Blue carbon:** coastal wetlands



## Carbon Removals

The Certification Framework for carbon farming will account for both:

- **Emission reductions**

- Soil
- Wetting of peatlands
- Reductions of fertilizer use

- **Temporary carbon removals in soils and forests**

- Time-limited certificate (e.g. 5 or 10 years)
- Certification period can be renewed

## Carbon Removals

The certification process:

Operators generate carbon removals or emissions reductions


Independent certification bodies verify the number of units and compliance certification criteria

Public or private certification schemes issue the certified in their own registries or in the Union registry (to be established within 4 years)

# Green Claims



Other proposals affecting financing of Carbon markets:

- **Corporate Sustainability Reporting** (standards on climate)
- **Green Claims** 
- **Post-2030 Climate Policy** (to come. Possible creation of an AgETS)

Currently the parliament text excludes carbon farming (because is not permanent) from being able to account for reduction claims!!!

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## Natural Resources: soil

- Under co-decision
- Parliament voted on their position on the soil monitoring law (11/04/24)
- some improvements to the commission proposal:
  - “soil health certificate” and “one out all out principle” deleted
  - SSM principles and practices now are a SSM toolbox, gathering existing schemes and best-practices.
- It also allows for 3 different levels of soil monitoring to provide scope for those willing to implement more comprehensive systems. Can create complexity.
- Negotiation will be up to the new Parliament.

# Natural Resources: water

## Water Resilience Initiative:

- Likely to be a big file for the next commission.
  - Nexus Water- food- energy –ecosystems-society
  - Balancing supply and demand:
  - Water storage and ecological flow

## Water Reuse:

- Implementation of water reuse regulation started last year.  
Establishes minimum requirements.
- Ongoing exchange of best practices

## Nitrates Directive:

- Commission considering its evaluation.
- Consultation on RENURE (fertilising materials from livestock manure) still open this week

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# Digitalisation

## GreenData4All



The initiative seeks to enhance environmental data sharing for sustainable development. Our recent submission to the Call for Evidence highlights key points:

- **Data Rights:** Landowners should retain sovereignty over their data and be fairly compensated for sharing.
- **Property Rights:** Emphasis on preventing infringement upon property rights by requiring informed consent and fair compensation for data sharing.
- **Impact on Landowners and Farmers:** Highlighting potential administrative burdens and financial costs, urging for measures to minimize these impacts.



## Wildlife estates



WE is now present in 20 countries, with 450 estates representing over 2M hectares certified

Future methodology improvements regarding the Green Deal

Direct impact on legislation:

- Easement in Spain
- Rural development financing in Portugal
- Access to public financing at NGO level in Flanders





## Belleuropa Award

Created by leading environmental figure FCS member **Giuseppe NATTA**, now run by his son FCS member **Francesco NATTA**

Recognises the value of carefully managed natural habitats and their managers' efforts in improving the rural landscape and enhancing biodiversity

Each year, the Belleuropa Award honours a member of the **Wildlife Estates Label Network** for the exceptional work that they have undertaken in maintaining, protecting, and improving Biodiversity.





## Famigro Award

Created by Karl Grotenfelt in 2013

Awarded to young entrepreneurs who begin a new, innovative concept in the countryside

Aims to support rural life, the environment, and social responsibility

Information and candidate forms on ELO website





**FCS Study Tour, Cáceres, Spain**  
**February 20-23, 2025**  
**Led by FCS Member Amelia Keane**  
**Details and Registration as of September**

Activities: Merino sheep, Fruit trees,  
Winery, Limousine cows, Horse breeders,  
Oak, Iberian pork  
Boutique Hotel : Casa Pizarro, Cáceres



**Thank you !**

