



## **Media release**

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### **European Landowners' Organization and BirdLife International sketch a roadmap for the future of the CAP**

**27 January 2010, Brussels** – During an event organised in the European Parliament, BirdLife International [1] and ELO [2] launched their joint policy paper, *'Proposals for the future CAP: a joint position from the European Landowners' Organisation and BirdLife International'*. The document [3] was presented by Paolo De Castro, Chairman of the European Parliament Agriculture Committee, Thierry de l'Escaille, ELO Secretary General, and Angelo Caserta, Regional Director of BirdLife International's European Division.

The two organisations believe food security and environmental challenges can only be met by a European policy with commensurate budget resources - and that a reformed CAP could be up to the task.

The organisations envision a CAP based on a new contractual approach whereby farmers and land managers are rewarded for the delivery of public goods.

EU citizens need proper land management that delivers rich biodiversity and healthy ecosystems and a farming sector capable of maintaining food production on the long term by making wise use of natural resources.

Special attention must be given to High Nature Value farming systems such as extensive grazing of marginal lands that are often at risk of abandonment.

Land managers and conservationists also agree that key features of the new policy must be based on current rural development measures making use of the experience gained in agri-environmental schemes.

ELO's Secretary General, Thierry de l'Escaille said: "Both organisations see a continuing role for a European policy and budget to help achieve Food and Environmental Security (FES)" and added "We agree that the CAP must change to meet this century's emerging challenges: the growing demand for food, dangers of global warming and threats to Europe's biodiversity and environmental quality."

"The current system needs to be overhauled to properly reward farmers for the environmental benefits they provide and which are so vitally important for both for our embattled wildlife and for our own long term wellbeing" commented Angelo Caserta, Regional Director of BirdLife International.

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**For more information, please contact:**

Herlinde Herpoel, Head of European Communication and Marketing at BirdLife International -

+32 (0)494 542 844, [herlinde.herpoel@birdlife.org](mailto:herlinde.herpoel@birdlife.org)

Or

Jehanne de Dorlodot, Head of Media Relations at the European Landowners Organization –

+32 (0) 22343000, [coordination@elo.org](mailto:coordination@elo.org)

**Notes for the editor**

[1] BirdLife International is a global Partnership of nature conservation organisations working in more than 100 countries and territories. BirdLife is the leading authority on the status of birds, their habitats and the problems affecting them, and is working on a wide range of environmental issues.

For more information about the work of the BirdLife European Division:

<http://europe.birdlife.org>

More on the BirdLife International CAP Vision:

[http://www.birdlife.org/eu/EU\\_policy/Agriculture/eu\\_agriculture4.html](http://www.birdlife.org/eu/EU_policy/Agriculture/eu_agriculture4.html)

[2] The European Landowners Organization (ELO), created in 1972, is a unique federation of national associations from the EU27 and beyond, which represents the interests of landowners, land managers and rural entrepreneurs at the

European political level. Independent and non-profit making, ELO is the only organization able to stand for all rural entrepreneurs.

For more information, please visit <http://www.elo.org>

[3] The proposal's seven key messages are:

- Appropriate land management is crucial for the conservation of a range of ecosystem services, a critical one of which is food production for the human population and underpinning this, the long-term capacity of land for food production.
- Sustainable management of Europe's land requires continued active intervention by farmers and landowners.
- There is a particular need to ensure the maintenance of extensive livestock, and other High Nature Value, systems.
- Europe plays an important role in global food security and in driving higher global environmental standards of production.
- Policies and budgets at the European level are necessary to enable us to rise to these food and environmental challenges.
- Future policy therefore requires the evolution of the CAP to ensure alignment between CAP support and public benefits.
- The mechanisms and measures to achieve this are likely to show more characteristics of current CAP rural development and agri-environment measures than current farm support measures.

Download the joint proposal at

[http://www.birdlife.org/eu/pdfs/Proposal for the future cap FINAL 21 01 2010.pdf](http://www.birdlife.org/eu/pdfs/Proposal%20for%20the%20future%20cap%20FINAL%2021%2001%202010.pdf)

Or

<http://www.elo.org/documents>