

July - August 2009

## Editorial

*In this summer period we hope that our leaders take the time to reflect on the fundamentals in order to make reasoned decisions.*

*All too often the Member States fail to deliver coherent policy conclusions, and they use outdated methods towards when distributing European mandates.*

*There is an urgent need to focus on the pressing issues of the next legislature, of which we are not short of; the EU budget, the 2013 CAP reform, the post-2010 strategy on biodiversity, soil, water, the distinction between SMEs and family enterprises, the allocation of forest resources, new energy, climate change and many others.*

*Friends of the Countryside at their congress in Prague emphasised the fundamental role of the private sector as managers of property and territories, whose actions provide a number of public goods.*

*It is urgent that our society understands this offer, and values for example the services they provide to ecosystems and, in turn, integrates this into their reasoning.*

*This offer is multiple and covers the nine major sectors of production of private property.*

*Putting in place the appropriate tools for management, being sure as not to kill incentives by unbridled taxation and maintaining a sustainable balance are the keys to success.*

Thierry de l'ESCAILLE

## The XIIth General Assembly of Friends of the Countryside



Castle of PRAGUE

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**T**he XIIth FCS General Assembly took place in Prague from the 11th -14th June. More than 250 people gathered in Malostransky Palace to talk about “Environmental and Landowners’ Challenges”, with a special focus on Czech Republic. The Czech Minister of Agriculture Ladislav MIKO opened the debate, presenting a summary of the Czech Presidency, and the future challenges relating to those matters. Wenceslas de LOBKOWICZ, adviser in DG Enlargement of the European Commission (EC), spoke about “The 2004 Enlargement communication strategy: lessons learned in favour of rural society”.

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With the support of  
EC DG Environment

### CountrySide

is a publication of ELO in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish.

Publisher :  
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)

5 Euros

He underlined that it was the most significant enlargement, as it finalised the re-unification of our continent after the artificial division inherited from the Second World War.

Therefore, this process was well prepared and has many steps, such as, pre-accession, which includes the realisation of points defined by the 1992 Copenhagen European Council, supported by various financial instruments. It also had to be well explained to all citizens in the member states and in the former candidate countries, so for the first time a special "communication strategy" was adopted by the EC. For that reason, a dedicated programme was designed to inform stakeholders of rural societies about new rules to be implemented for accession. It was essential to obtain their support, as only common work can foster a better understanding of our common values.

W. de LOBKOWICZ underlined that "experience from 2004/2007 taught us that enlargement is more than negotiation, because it includes pre-accession, and it is more than only the "acquis" because monitoring is a vital key... We do not only share a common heritage but much more importantly we all share a common future within the European Union". The next speaker, Friedrich von SCHWARZENBERG, spoke about "The role of property and private enterprise after the restitution - a new development in the Czech Republic". He concentrated on public and individual attitudes which resulted from change in ownership law. As a man who believes in a liberal view of the economy and the rule of the law, he stated that the role of property and enterprise is positive but insufficiently so, keeping in mind that these concepts are hampered by the political heritage of the Czech Republic. He described the status of the rule of the law as being "a selective kind

of restitution "sui generis", therefore flawed in terms of a private ownership concept as until now it is excluding traditional landowners like the clergy (some 1 87,000ha in 1937), foreigners generally and in particular the former co-citizens of German and Hungarian heritage (I estimate at least some 400,000ha). Nevertheless, simplifying a lot, the productive land and the urban commercial buildings stay nationalized... Even if some of the accepted Czech citizens have problems in obtaining their rightful restitution, there is hope concentrating on independent judges - the discussion about restitution is by no means over.

"I dream that if such individual lawsuits succeed, it will serve as another factor improving the chances for slow progress to the generally accepted rule of the law - ending the cancer of political influence bending the law, of corruption, of injustice to evicted minorities etc..." He also insisted on the attitudes towards private enterprise in general: "a fatal effect proved to have the personal frustration of those generations driven out of their natural role as managers, and once displaced, incapable of progressing with the political and economical development of the so called free world - forgetting to fight for their rights. Hopefully, the last 15 years brought some new light and this was helped by the traditional healthy Czech scepticism towards any overbearing "bossy" attitude of a representative of a totalitarian regime - viz. the famous soldier Švejk. I am deeply convinced that successful but also politically sensitive estate management remains the best policy at hand - supporting thus the full return of the acceptance of private ownership and of private enterprise. Having with us the young generation, or such organisation as ELO or SVOL, we have to prove that we care about local social problems, that we understand ecology concerns



like continuing sustainable soil management and that we are loyal tax payers. And we must learn to communicate that to the public.”

The last presentation was given by Johannes de LOBKOWICZ, who gave another point of view on “Restitution, Methodology and Results”. Under the “Land Law” some 600,000ha of forest and 400,000ha of agricultural land were returned to their former owners or their heirs. Statistics are not very reliable, but the Ministry of Agriculture talks of 232,006 cases of land restitution, out of which 814 cases were not resolved by 2009. Today 347,000ha are in the hands of municipalities and larger land-owners (1097 estates with an average size of 656ha) the average size of other restituted land is around 2.5ha. Town houses, country houses and collections were returned under other laws. In all cases the legal preconditions for the applicant for the restitution were: possession of a legal title, having Czech residency (this precondition was

later overruled as not constitutional by the Supreme Court) and having Czech citizenship. To the question “Do we restitute the original or the second owner”, Parliament decided for the later option, compensating the former owners with a bond against the state, representing the value of the land lost. This bond could be sold back to the State for cash after some time. Most importantly, Parliament imposed a very strict time schedule. Those who had not applied by the end of 1992 lost all and any right of restitution. In the opinion of J.LOBKOWICZ: “Restitution was a stroke of genius. It helped create a sense of property and responsibility in a population that had been brainwashed for 40 years into believing, everything belonged to the people; it has had very positive results regarding the administration of Land; it has motivated municipalities and private owners to restore cultural heritage on an impressive scale; it also helped the early and healthy development of Property Markets. Last but not least, ownership of Land, Houses and

assets by physical people, not by companies or more or less anonym entities, has had a stabilizing influence on society”.

The presentations were followed by a discussion and by the presenting of the Anders WALL Foundation award to the Swedish estate of Wrams Gunnarstorp, with a special price for the Greek estate Dafnondas.

The participants of the Congress had the opportunity the next day to discover beautiful and well managed private Czech estates, such as Dobris, Drahenice, Blatna, Orlik, Novy Dvur, Karlov, Zdar, Sazavou, Kost, Obora, Chlumec and Cidlinou, hosted by their owners or managers.

As confirmed in Prague by the GA, next FCS Congress will take place in Netherlands in summer 2010.

■ Emmanuelle MIKOSZ

## EUROPEAN HISTORIC HOUSES (UEHHA)

# The challenges of mass heritage tourism

**C**urrently Europe remains the world's most visited continent. The tourism sector represents over 4% of the European Union's GDP and is at the heart of European policies since it involves transport and accommodation as well as employment, environment and town and country planning. It plays an essential role in the development of most European regions. Like our natural heritage, culture heritage also undeniably attracts visitors and is therefore a major plus point.



Nelahozeves

The richness and variety of our heritage is indeed an invaluable asset. But with the current growth and development of the tourism sector it faces many challenges such as competition, the management of tourist flows and adjusting to demands for new forms of tourism. Opening historic monuments to tourists also highlights certain paradoxes. While monuments and sites are listed with the intention of preserving them, opening them to the public inevitably causes them to deteriorate, especially if the visits are badly managed. On the other hand as well as the income and profits generated by tourists, a monument acquires a new, modern role beyond its traditional and local significance when people are allowed to visit it.

In 2001 the UNESCO world heritage committee recognized the growing importance of tourism and its benefits for world heritage sites, but also the threat of mismanaged tourism. It adopted a programme as a result. With several million visitors to the 851 world heritage sites, tourism has become one of the most important factors influencing them. Site management is therefore a crucial conservation issue. According to the committee one of the main problems involved in making tourism a means of protecting biodiversity and culture is the shortage of qualified staff and the lack of experience among the local population and politicians. This programme promotes sustainable development and includes policies and tools intended to respond to the growing needs of tourism man-

agement – an approach which can also be applied to sites not on the list ([www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)).

Heritage sites offer many socio-economic benefits and can contribute to increased demand in the tourism sector. In return tourism is an undeniable conservation asset, but if left uncontrolled it can also cause a great deal of harm. Excessive numbers of tourists can threaten sites and contribute to their deterioration. Too many visitors in a home or park not designed for that purpose can lead to wear and tear, breakages, theft and even excessive carbon emissions. Too much publicity can turn sites into clichés, standardizing them and even causing the gradual loss of their cultural identity. If there are too many people crowding onto a site this can spoil the anticipation of discovering it. The infrastructure built to cope with these numbers may also be inadequate. Stands and local folklore can commercialize a site and reduce its authenticity. In a sector where competition can be stiff, gaudy signposts at an entrance can spoil the views and landscapes. And it is even more difficult to manage private property when it is also someone's home – its original purpose after all.

EUROPEAN HISTORIC HOUSES (UEHHA)

Trying to space out the number of tourists visiting a monument requires a new form of management - lengthening opening times, promoting guided tours or even restricted access at certain times of the year or day. In order to avoid their eventual destruction, a drastic solution had to be adopted for the cave-paintings at Lascaut with the construction of a mock-up, which is the only area now publicly accessible. But this of course has a cost.

It is not easy to strike the right balance as the gap continues to grow between the big attractions on the tourist circuit and the smaller less-known ones. Visitors are being offered an increasingly wide and novel choice, major restrictions are being imposed on listed sites and funds are often low. If responsible tourism is the only way of ensuring the survival of our heritage, site-owners must become increasingly creative and innovate more than ever.

- Donatienne de SEJOURNET



Orlik

## THE INSTITUTIONAL ECHO

# Climate Change - preparing the way for the all-important talks this December in Copenhagen on the successor to the Kyoto Protocols

Important talks are taking place on preparing a new way for international climate change. This opens many possibilities for land managers, for example; the storage of carbon in timber and soil, and the production of renewable energy. However, we consider that unopposed climate change poses a greater threat to continued agricultural and forestry production – heat stress for plants and animals, flooding and drought, sea level rise, more storms and spread of diseases.



Land management has an essential role to play in countering these threats:

1. Adapting agriculture, forests, and ecosystems, and water conservation and coastline management;
2. Mitigation, by management of carbon stocks in trees and soils, and through providing substitutions such as renewable energy sources (biomass and biofuels), heat (biomass again) and construction materials (timber).

The ELO therefore follows and analyses these issues closely and supports the efforts of those seeking international agreements whereby countries make binding commitments to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. However, the ELO is concerned that the policies to encourage consumers to switch to renewables are not being whole-heartedly pursued. The Bonn talks earlier this month explored ways to achieve new targets for the developed countries (Annex I) and to halt deforestation in the developing world.

Of the many options, the ELO supports Option 5 for the developed world (Annex I countries), which suggests two new commitment periods 2013-17 and 2018-22 with alternative possible reductions quantified as a percentage of the base year for each party. We also suggest that the principal developing countries (China and India) must join this process no later than 2019.

European land managers are keen that they should have the opportunity to benefit from carbon stored as timber and then incorporated into wood products – both home produced and imported. We therefore support the option for Annex I countries to account for wood products imported from non-Annex I countries, which addresses a key loophole that is obstructing the development of policies for substitution by landowners in Annex I countries.

A third element concerns the need for effective incentives to reduce tropical deforestation. Until land-use change and deforestation in the developing countries is addressed, the policies for energy and material

substitution will never be put in place, which would allow land management, whether globally or in the Annex I countries, to play its full role in climate change mitigation and develop new, green markets.

These negotiations seem arcane and distant from farming and forestry in the European Union yet they could contain measures which could enable our land managers to make a real contribution to mitigating climate change and support the rural economy in the process.

■ Michaël SAYER



**BNP PARIBAS**  
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

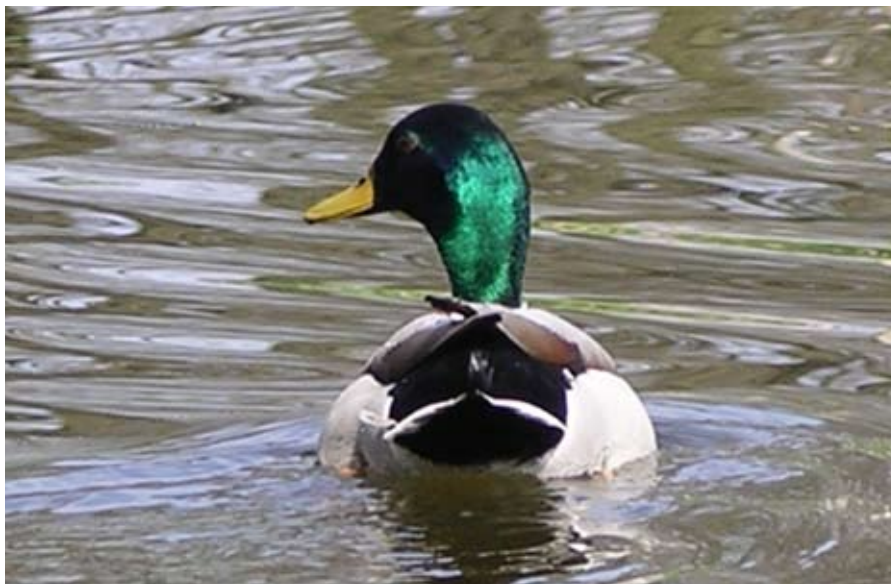
Contact:  
François de RADIGUÈS  
Tel: +32 (0)2 234 30 00

As the Departmental Federation of Hunters of the Somme and the Oise (ANCGE) said in its press release last June, the problems regarding proper enforcement of the laws governing hunting and collaboration between non-governmental organizations are back in force. One of the most explicit

examples is the protection of geese. More than 109,000 birds - 43,000 Greylag geese, 40,000 Greater White-fronted geese and 23,000 Eurasian Widgeons disappear into Holland during the autumn and winter, following the implementation of practices such as capturing moulting geese, putting a fence in different sectors of nests to prevent goslings from feeding near their neighbours, and the destruction of thousands of eggs to try to remedy the demographic explosion of the population. Taking

into account these objectives, the recent release by France Nature Environment, the LPO, the ROC League and Picardy nature, for the parliamentary mission conducted by Jean-Louis Borloo, which sheds light on the destruction of geese, astonishes. For the record, the sample taken in France is less than 20,000 geese per season. This proves, when based on experience gained with migrating birds, that the hunting season could include a few more days in February, and that protection of geese should be across frontiers, otherwise it will be insufficient. It is also crucial to develop cooperation between all players, to avoid recommendations such as "encourage geese wintering in France".

Every good protector of nature and every hunter knows, if the geese nest less in France, it is not for lack of a network of reserves



but simply because it is not a nesting area, even if global warming opens up new perspectives.

For more information:  
elo@elo.org

### **Report on the conservation status of species and habitats protected under EU law**

On the 13 July 2009, the European Commission published a report on the conservation status of over 1,150 species and 200 habitat types protected under EU law. According to the report, only a small proportion of these vulnerable habitats and species have achieved good conservation status and Member States will need to strengthen their efforts to improve this situation. The report covers 2001-2006 and is the most comprehensive survey of EU biodiversity ever undertaken. It covers 216 types of habitats, and contains information about some 1,182 species, providing an invaluable reference point for measuring future trends. Although the overall message is that many

species and habitat types have not achieved good conservation status, there are indications that protection measures are having an impact and that some habitat types and species are starting to recover. Overall, some 13% of regional habitat assessments and 27% of regional species assessments were reported as 'unknown'; with Spain and Portugal indicating 'unknown' for more than 50% of the species reported in their territories.

For more information see:

- Report on the Conservation Status of Habitat Types and Species as required under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/rep\\_habitats/docs/com\\_2009\\_358\\_en .pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/rep_habitats/docs/com_2009_358_en.pdf)
- Habitats Directive reporting:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/rep\\_habitats/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/rep_habitats/index_en.htm)
- Progress towards the European 2010 biodiversity target- indicator fact sheets; report published by the European Environmental Agency in 2009 ([www.eea.europa.eu](http://www.eea.europa.eu))

## THE ENLARGED EUROPE

# ELO General Assembly in Sweden

**E**very six months members of ELO gather for their General Assembly. This time the meeting took place on the 15-17 of June in Stockholm, and was hosted by the Swedish Members. ELO Members got the opportunity to discuss issues with important Riksdag members such as; Mr ERLANDSSON, Swedish Minister for Agriculture, Mrs Sofia ARKELSTEN, Member of environment and agricultural Committee as well as Mrs Anna KINBERG BATRA, President of the Swedish EU Committee.



It was followed by a presentation by the ELO Secretary General, Thierry de l'Escaille, on the structure of ELO and the policy positions taken by ELO on specific topics.

Concerning CAP reform, he presented the main key pieces of work which had been done or were being done, making the ELO case for the future of agriculture, the environment and rural development. He also mentioned water as a major new challenge, enhancing inter-linkages between water policies and the future CAP. As reflected by the Swedish Minister for Agriculture, Mr ERLANDSSON, during his meeting with ELO members, the general consensus was, and remains so, that the CAP budget should be cut by at least 30%. The food chain and quality of the products will certainly play a bigger role too. The ELO believes that the role of Europe's farmers in contributing to global food security should be stressed and the role of the CAP should to be looked at in the global context.

Aware of the new challenges the ELO closely follow the work of the RISE Task Force on the Nature and Scale of Environmental Public Goods delivered by Land Managers, which will deliver a paper in October. The debate will be continued during the 3rd Forum for the Future of Agriculture, tackling Food and Environmental security. It will again be together with Syngenta, taking place on the 16th March 2010 in Brussels. Further to this 2 or 3 side conferences will also take place, one of which will be in Russia.

On environmental issues, once more the importance of biodiversity and Natura 2000 was raised by ELO Member's. A paper entitled Agriculture and Biodiversity was to be presented during Green Week (it will be presented in the September edition of CountrySide). It analysed the impact of modern agriculture on biodiversity, using bird populations in the EU as a case study. It gave concrete and honest explanations for the state of European Biodiversity on

farmed landscapes and put forward a number of case studies with the common feature of new or different farming practices having the capability of preserving and even increasing biodiversity, whilst allowing profitable farming to take place. In many ways this was linked to the issue of ensuring the future delivery of public goods that the market has so far failed to deliver in sufficient quantities, and that public payments will be required to ensure future delivery. This would need to be a part of the restructuring of the CAP. The ELO is also preparing a positional paper on Climate Change issues to be presented during COP15 in Copenhagen, where as a sector it should be recognised that there should be commitments to reduce greenhouse gases and that we can be part of the solution.

The discussions started during GA were pursued during the field trip on the next day. ELO Member's were hosted by the GIERTTA and de GEER Families respectively, in Wasby and Stora Wasby. And were given the opportunity to discover the beautiful landscapes South of Stockholm. There was also the opportunity to visit farms dealing with farming and forestry, which also diversify into biogas production. Having new ideas for environmental ventures as goals, we shall find out about specific collaboration with such energy suppliers as Vattenfall for example.

■ Jethro SCHIANSKY

## Meeting with Eskil ERLANDSSON, Minister of Agriculture of Sweden

**P**rior to ELO General Assembly, the Swedish Minister of Agriculture addressed the ELO's Members in the Swedish Parliament. Below we present a summary of his speech.

Mr ERLANDSSON began by acknowledging the vital role of landowners, landownership and production choices. Then he turned to the upcoming Swedish Presidency of the European Union, due to commence in 15 days time. He said that the Presidency was unusual as it was due to take place in the context of a financial crisis, a new European Parliament, a new European Commission and finally the possibility of the Lisbon Treaty. He said that Sweden was ready and prepared for the challenge. He said that the task for Agriculture was to move the European Council Agenda forward on the basis of simplification and transparency, namely;

1. On Common Fisheries the Swedish Presidency will launch the debate on the Commission's Green Paper.
2. On Agriculture, Climate Change and Food Security in the global context he will endeavour to continue the debate and to make progress. In that context he looked forward to a successful COP15. He said that there would be an informal meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture in mid September and that there would be an evening on the topic of "Climate-Smart Food – from production to consumption" in November 2009. Finally he hoped to contribute to the FAO conference in November 2009 on the topic "How to Provide Poorer Countries with Food?"

3. On Animal Health and Welfare, and welfare rules, he plans a conference in October 2009 on animal welfare quality.

More generally he intended to organise a conference on the future of the CAP. Informal discussions had started with the French Presidency, but he said that the vision for the future of the CAP was different in each Member State; the majority of countries wanted to keep the CAP, and some even to increase the CAP budget. However, the Swedish Presidency aimed to continue what the CZ and FR had started, namely to broaden the discussion. The Council were due to look specifically at Pillar 2 in October 2009. He said that the Commission was due to launch a vision of the post 2013 CAP in the Summer or early Autumn of 2010.

The Swedish Presidency believed that Single Farm Payments should be phased out in the long-term, and that agriculture should be treated like other sectors, allowing farmers to compete on the market. He said that any future CAP should focus on the delivery of public goods, namely on foregone income and costs. He saw this as compensating for the delivery of services that society demands. He also subscribed to the idea that Pillar 2 should grow at the expense of Pillar 1. Finally he said, "Shaping the future of the CAP should and will be a top priority for years to come."

Prof Alan BUCKWELL put a number of questions to the Minister following his intervention:

1. What was the scope for incentivisation of Land Managers in the EU, particularly in relation to Climate change and carbon sequestration?
2. How does one go about balancing a budget cut on the one hand and the financing the provision of public goods on the other? All the evidence suggested that the costs of the delivery of public goods are high. Shouldn't one value these public goods and then decide on the necessary budget, rather than the other way around?
3. Pillar 2 co-financing creates a problem when transferring money from Pillar 1 to Pillar 2. How does one deal with this issue?

In response to the budget cut, the Minister explained that all political parties in Sweden had expressed a wish to reduce EU budget contributions, this clearly translated directly to a reduction of the CAP budget? There were no clear answers on the other issues.

Asked about the Swedish position on the soil Directive, the Minister said that he was focussing more directly on water and pesticides. On the issue of GMOs the Minister said that Swedes took a scientific approach.

■ Jethro SCHIANSKY



## YOUNG FRIENDS OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

# YFCS' Participation in the FCS 2009 GA in Prague

*The involvement of the younger generations in rural and environmental matters is of vital importance.*

**T**hanks to the support of FCS' President Giuseppe VISCONTI, around 30 Young Friends aged between 18 and 35 from more than seven European countries took part to the XIII General Assembly of Friends of the Countryside, held in Prague on Friday 12th and Saturday 13th June 2009. The strengthening of the partnership between YFCS and FCS is certainly beneficial for both organizations. In fact, the involvement of younger generations in rural and environmental matters is of vital importance; since they are the future landowners, estate managers and agricultural and environmental professionals.

The Young Friends attended both the General Assembly and the "Environmental and Landowners' Challenges conference in the Czech Republic" on Friday morning, hosted at Malostransky Palace. Amongst the various other issues that were being discussed, the restitution process was followed with particular interest and involvement. According to Carlo BOYL di PUTIFIGARI, an Italian YFCS member, "it has been of great interest listening to those who lived through the vicissitudes of rural property in the Czech Republic, which was firstly subdued and humiliated, but which has now finally been restored. I strongly hope that rural property will continue to perform its function of promoting the wealth of local communities and of preserving the history and the tradition of which rural properties are the guardians."

This view was shared by other members, most of who were touched by the relevance of these problems from the first time, since at the time of the fall of the European Communist regimes they were still at primary school and living in countries which did not experience this reality. In fact, the transmission of knowledge from the older generations to the younger ones was one of the crucial objectives of this meeting and it is a key element of the partnership between FCS and YFCS. The reasons behind this partnership are clearly exposed by Emanuele VISCONTI, YFCS

member and son of FCS' President: "It has been my first Friends of the Countryside Assembly, and I have to say that it has been a great experience from many points of view. I was really impressed by seeing how these families had the determination and perseverance to overcome numerous problems and to reclaim their properties. I think it is a great joy and reason of pride for them to see the results of their battles and hard work, especially after all those years of pain. It has been really interesting to share this experience with them and has shown me another aspect of landowning which is very different from what I had experienced so far."

After a morning of talks, the Young Friends enjoyed one of the guided tours together with FCS members either to the Strahov Library, the Kampa Museum or the Nelahozeves Castle. The intense but very fascinating day reached its apex with the gala dinner at Lobkowitz Palace at Prague Castle, hosted by William and Alexandra LOBKOWICZ. Besides the lovely dinner, the evening was enlightened by the private tour of the "Lobkowitz Collections" hosted at the Palace. Paintings by Croll, Canaletto, Rubens, Brueghel the Younger and Brueghel the Elder, along with the finest examples of decorative arts and an exquisite collection of hunting rifles fascinated the visitors, which were then

also captivated by the superb book collection, which includes a 1498 copy of "St. John's Account of the Apocalypse" with woodcut illustrations by Albrecht Dürer, and further by the music archive, which houses rare manuscripts from composers of the likes of Haydn and Mozart, which were mainly collected by the 7th Prince Joseph František Maximilian, who was also great patron of Beethoven.

Following the first day in Prague, all Young Friends together with some FCS members went to visit the Bohemian countryside, hosted by Giovanni and Michelle KINSKY DAL BORGIO and their son Francesco, who also is YFCS member. The warm and generous hospitality of Giovanni and Michelle started with a wonderful welcome coffee at the medieval castle of Kost, an impressive 14th century stronghold. After lunch, Francesco KINSKY DAL BORGIO gave a presentation on how the family is managing their estate and on the implications of the Natura 2000 programme in Czech Republic. In the afternoon, the Young Friends had the chance to visit the Baroque residence of Karlova Koruna, which also belongs to the family. The day ended with a visit to the sawmill, which is the heart of their forestry business.

The busy and stimulating programme of the FCS General Assembly

YOUNG FRIENDS OF THE COUNTRYSIDE



Castle of KOST.

© R.de RADIGUES

has been a precious occasion for the Young Friends who had the chance to attend it. According to Gabriel de l'ESCAILLE, YFCS President, "attending Friends of the Countryside events is crucial for YFCS: by sharing our determination to develop the Young Friends of the Countryside potential, we create opportunities for support, advice and cooperation, which contribute to our development." This view is shared also by Sebastian HILLGARTH, YFCS board member, who added: "I think Prague was a huge success which would certainly not have possible without many people's help, so many thanks to all those concerned! It was important for YFCS to partake in FCS' General Assembly in Prague not only because we saw first hand the con-

sequences of communism on the Czech landowner but also because we were able once again to show FCS how YFCS has evolved over the last year and launch our concept of Philanthropy in the countryside and consequently elaborate a little more on the educational role which YFCS Board Members believe the organisation has."

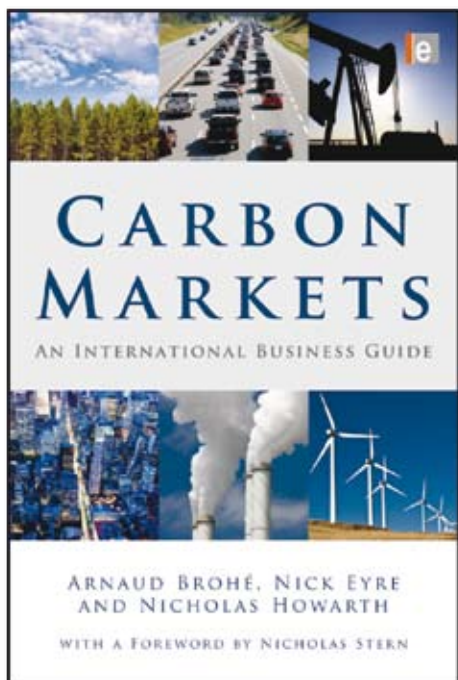
In conclusion, the participation of YFCS members in the Prague's meeting achieved a significant success amongst its members and constitutes an important turning point for YFCS, which once again, last year expanded its membership base and consolidated its position as an international not-for-profit organisation, promoting, develop-

ing and defending the rural interests of young rural business people, rural entrepreneurs, future and young private landowners. As one of our member, Emanuele VISCONTI, says: "The reunion has given me the chance of meeting many young people who share the same passion and have common interests. It has been also a great networking experience and when asked to become a member of the Young Friends of the Countryside, I had no doubts: I enthusiastically accepted!"

■ Luigi GALIMBERTI  
FAUSSONE di GERMAGNANO,  
YFCS Board Member

**BOOK OF THE MONTH**

## Carbon Markets – an International Business Guide



This book is a comprehensive and accessible guide to understanding the opportunities offered by regulated and voluntary carbon markets for tackling climate change. Coverage includes: an overview of the problem of climate change, with a concise review of the most recent scientific evidence in different fields; a highly accessible introduction to the economic theory of different constitutive elements of a carbon allowances market; explanation of the Kyoto Protocol and its flexibility mechanisms; explanation of how the EU Emissions Trading Scheme works in practice; ongoing developments in regulated markets in US; up-to-the-minute coverage of regulated carbon markets in Australia; developments in New Zealand and Japan; carbon offsetting and voluntary carbon markets. As described by Nicholas STERN in the Foreword “The creation of political will requires strong

and powerful arguments. That is the responsibility of us all and an important contribution of this book”.

Combining theoretical aspects with practical applications, this book is for business leaders, financiers, carbon traders, lawyers, bankers, researchers, policy makers and anyone interested in market mechanisms to mitigate climate change.

The carbon emissions resulting from the production of this book have been calculated, reduced and offset to render the book “carbon neutral”.

For more information  
[www.earthscan.co.uk](http://www.earthscan.co.uk) .

■ By A.BROHE, N.EYRE,  
N.HOWARTH

## Diary Dates 2009

**28-29 September, Essen  
(Germany)**

Conference “The Future of Sustainable Products and Services», with the support of the North Rhine-Westphalia Ministry of the Environment [www.sustainable-productsconference.com](http://www.sustainable-productsconference.com)

**5-8 October, Brussels**

“Open Days”: European Week of Regions and Cities, co-organised by EC DG Regio and the Committee of the Regions [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/conferences/od2009/reg\\_frame.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2009/reg_frame.cfm)

**13 - 14 October, Stockholm**

General Assembly of GEEF (Groupement Européen des Entreprises Familiales) [legalaffairs@elo.org](mailto:legalaffairs@elo.org)

**16 October, Brussels**

Conference “Energy and innovation in Historic Houses”, organised by UEHHA [coordination@elo.org](mailto:coordination@elo.org)

**16-17 October, Estonia**

Conference on hunting issues, with a special focus on Central Europe, co-organised by Estonian authorities and Organisation of private

landowners  
[coordination@elo.org](mailto:coordination@elo.org)

**2-6 November, Stralsund,  
Germany**

2nd International conference “Progress in Marine Conservation in Europe 2009”, with the support of Federal Ministry of Environment [www.habitatmare.de](http://www.habitatmare.de)

**16 March 2010, Brussels**

3rd Forum for Future of Agriculture, conference co-organised by ELO and Syngenta [elo@elo.org](mailto:elo@elo.org)



**Syngenta**

**Brussels Office**

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

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