

March 2009

## Editorial

*After last year's hugely successful Forum on the future of agriculture, we felt that there was a real need to keep up the momentum in Brussels. Both ELO and Syngenta firmly believe that an integrated policy for an inter-dependent pair of challenges, namely food and environmental security, is the best way of providing Europe's land managers with the framework to increase food production, whilst protecting and enhancing the environment. However, it is of course a hugely difficult task to integrate food and environmental security measures, to ensure that they are coherent and mutually supportive. Likewise the practical operation of policy is similarly difficult to achieve. Environment is so complex and there are difficult balances to be struck. We therefore feel that the best way to resolve some of these issues is by providing a platform for open debate, bringing together experts from government, industry, and civil society. That's what the Forum is all about, and is why we consider it essential to continue hosting it. Last year's First Forum was held against a backdrop of rising food prices, increased demand and poor harvests. This year the Second Forum is to be held against a backdrop of a global financial crisis, which has diverted attention away from these important issues while political leaders try to find an effective response to the problem. So the backdrop is different, but essentially the challenges in terms of producing food and protecting the environment, remain the same. So this Second Forum, of course acknowledges the crisis, and debates the issues of food and environmental security in the context of the financial crisis. We as organizers believe that the financial crisis has, if anything made this debate even more timely and important. Participants of course welcome the fact that some attention has again been turned back to agriculture and environment. However, there is certainly the recognition of the huge uphill battle we face to respond to these challenges. Landowners and landmanagers have a crucial role to play in this challenge.*

Thierry de l'ESCAILLE

## “THE PERFECT STORM - the political economy of the FISCHLER Reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy”



**N**ot only has this book a perfect title, it also is the perfect description of how The Perfect Storm of the FISCHLER Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy happened, why it cleared the air beyond expectations, and prepared the ground for a follow-up with the Health-Check and another CAP Reform.

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Franz FISCHLER was well aware of the long term challenges that Europe and the world was facing at the turn of the century: population explosion, urbanization with losses in crop land, rising living styles, environmental degradation, water shortages, energy shortages, climate change, insufficient research and technological progress regarding agriculture, and perhaps above all, looming world food insecurity.

He was aware that agriculture was part of the problem, but also part of the solution, while rural development needed to become more responsive to public calls for more food quality, more food safety, more sustainability and better public services produced by farmers. He did not see the CAP in a purely European, but in a wider world context in line with growing economic globalisation and Europe's increasing responsibility in feeding the world. He suspected that in times of a scramble for food supplies opening food markets might become less urgent than world food security.

The farm lobbies did not share his views. Their main interest was the status quo and the short term. The biggest challenge was to convince them, and if necessary to by-pass them and bring the message to the public. He actually was doing this for Europe's farmers, in what he believed was their interest, hoping it would eventually give them back at least part of the prestige they had lost in recent years as food was becoming the foremost public good again.

There are seven main reasons behind the success of FISCHLER's perfect storm:

1. The Mid-Term Review (MTR) was not expected to become a new reform, but a subsequent adjustment of the CAP after the European Council had weakened the reform previously agreed by the Ministers of agricul-

ture. It was FISCHLER's early intuition that the MTR offered an unexpected chance to take advantage of a window of opportunity and modernize the CAP unencumbered by three looming events: a mammoth EU enlargement to the East, the financial perspectives 2007-2013, and the next WTO round. Taking an early initiative within the Agricultural Council, however difficult, was preferable to handing it over later on to players such as the European Council and the Eco-Fin (finance) Minister, who would have the upper hand. Moreover, in the context of Agenda 2000 he had failed to convince regional Commissioner WULF-MATTHIES to allow the creation of a separate rural development fund including the whole of FEOGA orientation, and wanted to finish the job with the help of her successor and his friend Michel BARNIER.

2. A simple MTR was no option anyway. It would have had no chance to pass the Commission, who wanted a substantial cut in farm support. Audacity, as Johan SWINNEN wrote, was the only possible recipe. But President PRODI's initial audacity was a bridge too far. The President had at first overplayed his hand with the SAPIR Report that proposed cutting down CAP support to 0.5% of the EU budget. This was an academic exercise lacking political common sense. PRODI personally favoured a 30% cut. But CAP reform was FISCHLER's responsibility. The risk of failure was substantial. FISCHLER thought his only chance was to break out of the encirclement with a big bang, but without saying that he was planning a CAP reform. Decoupling CAO support from production was his detonator. PRODI was the first to be informed. It took him less than half an hour to rally behind the FISCHLER plan and launch the internal inter-service consultation. After the Hebdo meeting of Chiefs of Staff in which I pre-



sented our plan, one of my numerous colleagues who disapproved of the CAP told me “you bloody bastard, with your surprise proposal to decouple farm support from production you are getting away with your reform plan unscathed and keeping all the money!” After the agreement in Hebdo, the Commission’s position was a foregone conclusion. Discussion was limited. Only two Commissioners voted against, the only other real friends of the CAP (apart from FISCHLER), mostly because they opposed decoupling. Nobody else seemed ready to raise doubts expecting FISCHLER to convincingly rebut their arguments if they did.

3. FISCHLER’s credibility was the deciding factor, not just in Commission, Parliament and Council, but also with the public. According to the press, he was among the greatest communicators of the PRODI Commission. His credibility was the highest of all agricultural commissioners since MANSHOLT, although agriculture had meanwhile lost its privileged status within national governments

as well as with the Commission. Commissioner FISCHLER actually played a role much beyond his portfolio being part of all key working groups including those dealing with external relations, the structural funds, the new financial perspectives and the constitutional treaty. His trustworthiness was built on the success with Agenda 2000, the previous CAP reform, as well as on his skill in extricating himself from the BSE crisis, the most serious food scare in EU history (aggravated by DELORS’ Commission reluctance to accept repeated DG VI/ DG AGRI requests for substantially more veterinarians; there were only 14 permanent ones!). It is through FISCHLER’s management of the BSE crisis that I understood that the first traits of an outstanding politician are a) to try and identify the traps that may be laid in time by his adversaries taking advantage of events, and b) to have the foresight and capacity to lay the ground to defuse those traps.

4. I don’t agree with those who believe there were no consultations before the reform proposal. There

actually were more than with past CAP reforms, because the net was spread wider than ever before. The Commission received many position papers from farmers unions and others. As Mr SYRRAKOS wrote in *The Perfect Storm*, after tabling the proposal, FISCHLER devoted much attention to rationalize the public, in particular the farmers. He personally was our number one spokesman. But he also had one of the Commission’s best spokesmen Georg KREUTZHUBER, and created a green multinational team to spread the reform gospel across the EU15. Public opinion had changed, consumer interests had become more prominent, whereas farmer organisations had weakened, and proved unable to get their act together and agree on priorities. Most of the unions, notably the FNSEA in France and the Confagricultura in Italy were given hints, but were in denial of the need for reform and the latter two took advantage of consultations in order to scupper the reform. Their leaders believed that the only way to keep their jobs was to oppose change. Austrians accused FISCHLER of having gone



native in Brussels, although his approach had an Austrian “eco-social” flavour (a phrase invented by him two decades earlier). There were two exceptions though: the ELO and Paolo BEDONI, the leader of Italy’s Coldiretti, who told members that decoupling was in their interest, and succeeded in convincing them. They came out as winners. COPA/COGECA vice president BEDONI was booed when he openly spoke his mind in that forum. No wonder that COPA/COGECA became irrelevant to the FISCHLER reform process, and failed to have an impact on the FISCHLER reforms.

5. Timing was the biggest driver of reform, but also its biggest obstacle. The hardest was to convince farm ministers to accept a new reform before the end of the Agenda 2000 reform period. This was not only because it was felt by all, including FISCHLER, that they deserved regulatory stability, but also because the farmers feared that subsequent WTO negotiations would pocket the reform, and ask for more forcing them to pay twice. If this fear was overcome, it was only because they took FISCHLER at his word that he would look to it that the EU would actually not pay twice. Decoupling strengthened the EU negotiating position in Geneva

compared to that of the US as the CAP had become far less trade-distortive than the US Farm bill. FISCHLER’s trustworthiness was enhanced by his role as chief agricultural negotiator in the WTO (a role only Japan shares with the EU), and by the mutual respect and close cooperation with Pascal LAMY, who never circumvented him during the talks in Dubai, Seattle, Cancun and Geneva. The July 2004 WTO agreement allowed FISCHLER to stick to his promise. The same cannot be said regarding LAMY’s replacement, Commissioner MANDELSON, who had little knowledge about agriculture. Like LAMY’s predecessor Sir Leon BRITTAN, MANDELSON proved ready to sacrifice the PAC on the altar of a Millennium Round with the vain hope that it would open up the services markets. If the Doha round has failed, it was not because of the EU (thanks to the FISCHLER reform).

Timing became even more important on the final reform stretch. The decision of 25-26 June, 2003 in Luxemburg was speeded up because of fear of the Italian presidency starting a few days later. Unlike under Minister De CASTRO’s leadership during Agenda 2000, Italy’s position had been wishy-washy throughout the FISCHLER reform negotiations. Minister ALEMANNO’s positions had

proven far from dependable, and President CHIRAC kept trying to re-establish a blocking minority replacing Spain (after it dropped out) with Italy. The whole reform would therefore have been at risk of unravelling one week later in July. Besides, ALEMANNO left the impression that he was not keen in having to finish reform negotiations under his presidency. By contrast the Greeks, despite serious problems with milk, proved good presidential players and their shrewd German-speaking president SIMITIS, an old FISCHLER friend, succeeded in avoiding a *retour de flamme* by CHIRAC at the Thessaloniki Council, by arranging things so as not to let the subject come up.

6. Jo SWINNEN was right to devote a section of the book to the paradoxical impact of Jacques CHIRAC. He diluted the CAP reform of Agenda 2000 by striking an unannounced blow in the European Council and arrogantly overpowering his colleagues, none of whom had his agricultural background. But he paid a price for that as he had to accept the decision to hold a Health-Check. CHIRAC was in constant fear about FISCHLER’s reform drive, invited him regularly to the Quay d’Orsay, breaking the bridges only when the decoupling proposal

was tabled without forewarning. CHIRAC had tried to force PRODI to avoid reappointing FISCHLER. When he failed, he became personal and tried to bring FISCHLER down. He must have persuaded himself that it should be easy for a French president, and former Agriculture Minister to beat an agricultural Commissioner. He thus built up a blocking minority with the help of Chancellor SCHROEDER. The latter wanted the biggest possible enlargement at all costs, understood little about agriculture and did not care about it because it did not affect his electoral base. CHIRAC was the actual agricultural negotiator for France in absentia, giving instructions to his agriculture Minister GUIMARD throughout the final phases of the reform negotiation. FISCHLER knew CHIRAC would ask for his head, if only an opportunity arose for doing so. CHIRAC's anger became apparent at the Lisbon summit where P.M. GUTIERREZ reported that FISCHLER was holding in parallel a press conference in Brussels announcing sanctions against Portugal for exceeding its milk quota. GUTIERREZ was furious. CHIRAC commented saying "typical FISCHLER, should have long gone". But to PRODI's joking reaction, who said "If I understand, you want to send him to the stake in the Grande Place in Brussels", CHIRAC answered "Well not yet, I still need him". The reality is that CHIRAC was a whisker away from succeeding in killing the FISCHLER Reform, but was eventually outfoxed by FISCHLER's visit to BLAIR in London. Chirac took his defeat personally and did not want to see FISCHLER again.



7. Jo SWINNEN is right when he comments that not everything proposed was achieved. But let me stress that the agricultural Council accepted some 90% of the Commission proposal, thanks also to the fact that

FISCHLER made virtually no substantial compromises until very late into the last night of Council deliberations. It is true that subsequently other Council formations succeeded in weakening the reform as regards farm payments, by deciding a) that three quarters of the single farm payments for the newcomers would eventually come from the existing Pillar 1 budget), b) that the 1% GDP limit to EU budgetary resources would be calculated in payments instead of commitments, and c) that the deflator applied would be 1% instead of the expected inflation of 2% (a Dutch coup in Council). This made it inevitable to cancel the effects of modulation from pillar 1 to pillar 2 agreed in the agriculture Council, and meant a cut in Pillar 1 for the EU15 in order to pay for the EU12. As a result, just as was the case with Agenda 2000, the Council (agriculture) agreed a more radical CAP reform than the European Council could accept.

Those Council members who wanted CAP reform to go further obtained the commitment for a Health-Check in 2008-2009. They may have hoped that it could become a reform like was the case for the MTR. Theoretically it could. If all member states accepted to fully decouple, moved to flat-rate payments, took full advantage of

Article 68 using 10% of Single Farm Payments (SFP) for targeted support, accepted progressive modulation up to 13%, abandoned set aside and milk quotas, removed all intervention (except for crisis-buying wheat), the Health Check would mean a major policy change. In practice, the changes would be more limited.

The next reform will have to respond to questions about the objectives of the CAP in light of the challenges it faces in the first half of this century, and find new justifications for a substantial share of future EU budgets to be devoted to the SFP and rural development. The latter should include payments for public goods provided by farmers, notably regarding eco-systems. Once more, the speed of change regarding the food, energy and environment challenges we face will be higher than the speed of adaptation, notably in agriculture, but another step in the CAP reform process will be made.

■ Corrado PIRZIO-BIROLI

The presentation of the book « The perfect storm- the political economy of the FISCHLER Reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy » edited by Johan F.M. SWINNEN, took place in September 2008 in CEPS premises in Brussels. If you wish to purchase it, please contact ELO office.

**IN BRIEF**

## 2nd World Congress for Freedom of Scientific Research

On the 5-7 March in the European Parliament in Brussels was held the 2nd World Congress for Freedom of Scientific Research. The motto of the Congress was "From the body to the body politic" linking freedom of research with patients' rights. Different aspects of freedom of research were addressed at the meeting, from political manipulation of science to the relationship between science and religion; from bioethics to reproductive medicine. The speakers included Martin EVANS, Nobel Prize in Medicine 2007; Kary MULLIS, Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1993; Martin L. PERL, Nobel Prize in Physics 1995; Bernat SORIA, Spanish Minister of Health; Laurette ONKELINX, Belgian Minister of Health, Reinaldo GUIMARÃES, Brazilian National Secretary of Health, Janez POTOČNIK, European Commissioner for Science and Research and Willy De GREEF, EuropaBio's Secretary General.

The first meeting of the World Congress was held in February 2006 at Rome's Capitol Hill and participants included researchers, patients and politicians of different affiliations from over twenty countries. On that occasion, a European

campaign was launched in order to secure EU funding for embryonic stem cells-related projects, following the success of a similar initiative in 2004 at the United Nations, supported by the NGO "Nonviolent Radical Party, transnational and transparty".

For more information please visit: <http://www.freedomofresearch.org/node/83>

## Phytosanitary products

After the revision made by European Commission DG Sanco two-thirds of oldest pesticides have been pulled out of the European market. The EC reviewed the active substances accessible on the market prior to 1993 and used to manufacture phytosanitary products (pesticides). 250 from more than 1000 molecules were re-evaluated, passing the safety assessments. 70 were banned, as considered presenting excessive risks to human health and the environment. Some were withdrawn by the producers as no longer in use, or considered having no chance of being accepted. Androulla VASSILIOU, Health Commissioner, and her services underlined that from now on "our food has become greener

(...)The health of consumers, farmers and those residing near areas where pesticides are used was taken into account, along with the impact of these products on groundwater and non-target organisms, such as birds, earthworms, bees and certain mammals".

As ELO we would like to underline that such revision will highly affect the rural world and producers, and as such has to be conducted in a most scientific and transparent way, including in the process various stakeholders such as representing the farmers and producers world. Only this situation will allow a large scope of opinions and data, ensuring in results the most efficient protection of European consumers.

The list of authorised pesticides can be consulted on : [http://ec.europa.eu/sanco\\_pesticides/public/index.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/sanco_pesticides/public/index.cfm)



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## Food and Environmental Security

### – Integrated policy matching today's global realities

In the context of our upcoming 2nd Forum on Financing and Governing Food and Environmental Security, one should draw your attention to MEP Mairead McGUINNESS's excellent report on the "Common Agricultural Policy and Global Food Security" for which she must be congratulated. It is an exhaustive account of the state of play today with regard to global food security and also the vital role of the CAP now and in the future. ELO had the opportunity to speak alongside McGUINNESS at a recent breakfast held at Weber Shandwick entitled "Do we need a new framework for financing sustainable food security?" She presented her report, and Thierry de l'ESCAILLE spoke about the expectations of civil society and the contributions of rural actors.

It is universally agreed across civil society that the inequalities we can see between the worlds rich and poor are totally unjustifiable, and we in Europe have a moral and social obligation to reduce the almost incomprehensibly large number of hungry people in the world. According to the United Nations, this year the number of hungry or malnourished people in the world will reach the shocking landmark of one billion people. This, despite the West's pledge in 2000 to halve world hunger by 2015 as part of the Millennium Development Goals.

It is therefore the moral duty of Europe's farmers to produce food commensurate with its ability to do so, and this necessitates a huge contribution from rural actors. Yet the FAO reports that as a result of falling food prices, farmers in Europe and North America are reducing their plantings for next years harvest as the lack of credit makes it more difficult for farmers to buy inputs such as agricultural chemicals and seeds.

Global food production must be increased in a sustainable manner and not at the cost of the environment. The EU must play its part in matching food supply to

demand worldwide. This role is particularly important when considering the budget 2009-10 and to the post 2013 CAP. Given the worldwide situation with regard to hunger, we cannot base future European objectives and resources on achieving food security for Europe alone; Europe has already achieved relatively secure food for its people. We know that the world's population is predicted to rise to 9 billion by 2050. Although total world grain production is still growing, grain production per person peaked in 1985 and has been declining since. The same is true for total arable land per capita, which has gone from 0.35 hectares per capita in 1970 to 0.24 hectares per capita in 1994.

Protecting natural resources and particularly increasing the efficiency of water use in agriculture is vital. Add to the mix combating climate change, halting the loss of biodiversity, and contributing to the energy mix (all global concerns) and it seems rural actors have an enormous challenge on their hands. These actions will require more research, a serious and intelligent debate on access to new technologies, as well as development and training which all means a significant investment.

We consider that the challenges outlined here, and more exhaustively in the report of Mairead McGUINNESS are of sufficient importance that dialogue amongst governments, scientists, industry, environmentalists as well as farmers and land managers must consider the practical options for meeting these challenges so as to ensure delivery of the policies and resources necessary for Europe to play its part.

■ Jethro SCHIANSKY



## THE ENLARGED EUROPE

### WEI

## Wildlife Estate Initiative

In general it can be said that most of the goals set by the Working Group three years ago have been achieved.



©Hoge Veluwe

We introduced a philosophy to support this initiative, which emerged from several working meetings and enriching discussions organized on a regular basis in recent years. The Wildlife Estates are one more stage in the natural development of hunting and fishing grounds and enhance one of the most important aspects of what we mean by sustainable management. Europe's hunting and fishing grounds have – over time – been transformed into real producers of wild fauna thanks to the introduction of both simple and practical management techniques. In a hunting and fishing area it is usual for between 6 and 12 species to

be hunted and fished (note that in some cases only 1 or 2 species are hunted). The most important feature of this management is its respect for habitats and landscapes. Its aim is to create the peaceful and tranquil conditions that the fauna need which in turn improves the natural conditions for the other vertebrates which are not hunted (between 60 and 120 species). These species are also protected and in many cases vulnerable or endangered.

The Wildlife Estates have demonstrated once and for all that old fishing and hunting grounds can become authentic producers of wild fauna

- which is why they bear the name they do.

Until now the assessment methods for candidate properties have been supported by special questionnaires for the Mediterranean, Atlantic and Continental biogeographical regions. In the European Union there are 5 other biogeographical regions: Boreal, Macronesian, Alpine, Pannonic and Arctic. Most of the hunting and fishing areas of the European Union are located in the above-mentioned biogeographical regions and in the Boreal zone. The analysis methods have been improved and tasks simplified. The

THE ENLARGED EUROPE

cost of the process has also been cut to make for an eminently practical and operational methodology.

Exchange of information is easier and a network of specialists has been created. It puts in touch members from several member states: Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Sweden and Finland. These experts represent institutions or well-known bodies, universities or even private associations.

The Wildlife Estates philosophy was adjusted to that of the Natura 2000 network and our idea for the future is to make the goals even more compatible in order to combine the responsibilities and management of protected zones throughout the European network.

**What are the next stages?**

- The methodology already being studied in Scandinavian countries needs to be approved so that the Boreal biogeographical region can be incorporated into the Wildlife Estates Initiative. Consideration should be given to the inclusion of at least one other biogeographical region, such as the Alpine one, in which there are many hunting and fishing areas – magnificent examples of the management and conservation of natural values.
- The WE assessment panel which was set up in Brussels in 2008, should be enlarged to include new technicians, scientists and managers of hunting and fishing areas throughout the European Union. With the right number of members to allow it to remain operational, the panel will award final status to the

hunting and fishing grounds applying to become Wildlife Estates. The analysis will be carried out – as it is already – by the technicians at the panel's request.

- Candidate assessment must continue throughout 2009 by completing the analysis of the 69 properties which have applied. These are located in the Mediterranean, Atlantic and Continental biogeographical regions.
- Publication of 'The Wildlife Estates initiative: handbook for assessing and implementing management techniques for wild fauna territories in the Mediterranean biogeographi-

cal region' - with the support of the institutions which have worked on this programme including the Commission itself. This paperback is a guide intended to help assess candidates, but will also include management techniques which have produced convincing results, in order to improve the profiles of new candidates. It should also correct any management shortcomings which could be the cause of a refusal following assessment.

■ Carlos OTERO



## YOUNG FRIENDS OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

# The grand Argentinean dream and Estancia Caraguay

**A**rmed with a degree in foreign trade and a specialization in the management and conservation of natural areas but above all with a grand dream, I had the idea of overstepping limits and crossing certain borders. Today, thanks to my inclusion in Dr Carlos OTERO's Argentinean project under the San Carlos Foundation (SCF) I have made this dream come true and am a part of what is for me a contemporary and exhilarating challenge.



I started living in the Catamarca province in North-West Argentina three years ago, in the Club Sumampa Resort located in the tiny village of La Vigne, and that challenge has filled me with enthusiasm ever since.

Following major regional investment on the part of a few Europeans thirsty for adventure, the land needed managing properly. The idea of the project is to change the productive focus of these areas, which have been impoverished due to years of overgrazing by cattle, and convert them into new models of management and sustainable development. We managed to buy land in the Catamarca region at an amazing price. Some of the properties could be merged meaning we can now put several thousand

unbroken hectares on the market. Our intention is to improve and restore the biodiversity of the land, by guaranteeing the conservation of the ecosystems and the landscape, the protection and fostering of endangered species, job creation in the countryside and the promotion of a new model that I like to call 'hunting ecotourism'.

What I mean by hunting ecotourism is a marriage between hunting in the broadest sense and ecotourism. The aim is to strike a subtle balance between ecological resources, social issues and economic viability. Economic and ecological growth are clearly compatible in our socio-economic model.

Eco-tourism is defined as a form of tourism involving a responsible attitude to visits to natural areas, without disturbing them. The purpose is to enjoy them to the full, appreciate them and even study them (landscape, wild flora and fauna).

Hunting and conservation offer new socio-economic resources which can be developed. We are convinced that our properties have enormous potential for the development of rural tourism of exceptional quality. Eco-tourism, which was once a minority activity, has turned into one of the most promising sectors in the tourist industry.

In our model conservation is defined as social and economic use of the natural environment while meeting the zone's ecological needs. Our intention is to limit the artificial transformation of these areas and strike a certain balance within a natural area. Our form of sustainable socio-economic development endeavours to boost tourist facilities - such as hotel infrastructure - which are compatible with the ecological needs of the natural environment.

We divide the process into three phases: firstly planning, then implementation (management) and finally monitoring in order to assess efficiency.

To this end we have set up a sting operation composed of a solicitor, a lawyer, an accountant, a surveyor, an architect, a businessman, forestry guards and workmen, and we all work together on essentially virgin territory to enhance its added value.

The landowners, most of whom are European, are members of the San Carlos Foundation which manages the association's administration and the technical aspects of the land in order to improve biodiversity and optimize the profitability of their investments.

The Estancia Caraguay described in the upcoming book

YOUNG FRIENDS OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

“Creating the Future of the Countryside” is a perfect example of the work that we do in Argentina. This property of 1600 hectares was once virgin land and has been divided into several plots belonging to different landlords. It has now been completed reshaped with total respect for nature.

Finished in the space of a year, it has become economically viable, loved by its wild fauna and flora and appreciated by its owners.

Today Caraguay has 40km of paths, 300 fenced hectares, 7 lodges for guests, a refuge, guard's house, sheds and workshops, 40

hectares of food patches and allotments, many lookouts, 4 miradors, 2 amazing views over the whole property and a diversion of its stream to 8 water features. San Carlos plans, advises, supervises and monitors the land planning project while respecting economic, social and ecological criteria.

Although our experience in the field is essentially in the field of land planning, we also propose that investors diversify their investments over several crops such as olives, vines, hazelnuts and other agricultural products which respect the principles of sustainable development.

It was not easy to arrive in the province of Catamarca with ambitious goals and seek to obtain the consent of the region, but thanks to the know-how and experience of Dr Carlos OTERO it has become possible to meet the challenge of these areas of Argentina and to slowly see the emergence of a new private natural reservation covering tens of thousands of kilometers in an area where no one would have thought of investing.

■ Guillaume JANSSENS



**BOOK OF THE MONTH**

## Plan B 3.0 Mobilizing to save civilization

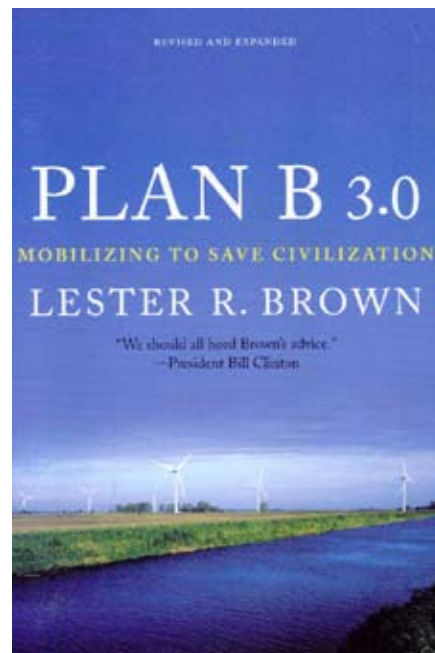
The world has set in motion environmental trends that are threading civilisation itself. We do not have much time. We are crossing environmental thresholds and violating deadlines set by nature. Nature is the timekeeper, but we cannot see the clock.

With the business as usual no longer an option, it is time for Plan B 3.0 Lester BROWN, founder of the earth Policy Institute, investigates the most salient issues from global warming to the impact of unstable governments on our global society. He diagnoses the central ecological problems affecting our planet and offers a response for individuals and governments. Among other concerns, he considers

how to raise energy efficiency worldwide and how to harness alternative energy sources on the scale needed. In Plan B 3.0, BROWN, who has been analyzing the interaction between global environmental and economic trends for over forty years, provides a map for saving civilization now.

Lester R.BROWN is president of Earth Policy Institute, a research organization based in Washington, DC. BROWN has been honoured with numerous prizes, including a MacARTHUR Fellowship, the United Nations Environment Prize, and Japan's Blue Planet Prize.

Norton editor.  
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## Diary Dates 2009

**16th- 22nd March, Istanbul**  
5th World Water Forum - main water-related event in the world. With ELO active participation in session : a step ahead: improving water management by anticipating change?  
[www.worldwaterforum5.org](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org)

**2nd - 3rd April, Brussels**  
European Water Conference – special focus on River Basin Management Plans, as by the end of the year they must be established, laying down specific measures to ensure that all EU waters reach good quality status by 2011 organised by EC DG Environment  
[www.ewc2009.eu](http://www.ewc2009.eu)

**6th – 8th April, Sofia**  
Congress on Renewable Energy- focus on south -eastern Europe.  
[www.viaexpo.com/congress-ee-vei/eng/congress.php](http://www.viaexpo.com/congress-ee-vei/eng/congress.php)

**16.th – 19th April, Riga**  
Riga Agro 2009: Agricultural Fair, in parallel to the 9th International Forest Management and Woodworking Exhibition: FOREST AND WOOD 2009, the 5th Hunting and Game Management Exhibition: HUNTING 2009, and the 13th Garden and Floristry Exhibition: GARDEN FLORA 2009. These exhibitions might together gather more than 20,000 visitors.  
[www.bt1.lv/bt1/agro/index.php](http://www.bt1.lv/bt1/agro/index.php)

**22nd April, Strasbourg**  
"Biodiversity and Sustainable Hunting Intergroup" last session for this 2004-2009 European Parliament mandate; under the presidency of MEP Michl EBNER.

**6th 14th May, Brussels and European Union**  
1st edition of SME week: to promote entrepreneurship across Europe and to inform entrepreneurs about support available for them at European, national and local level, organised by EC DG Enterprise. With the participation of GEEF(Groupement Européen des Entreprises Familiales).

On-line registration : [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/entrepreneurship/sme-week/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/entrepreneurship/sme-week/index_en.htm)



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