

# **EU Conference on small private forest holdings**

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## Outline

- About the ELO
- Securing the Future of Europe's Forests
  - The importance of Sustainable Forest Management
  - The importance of sustainable use
  - The importance of property rights



The European Landowners' Organization (ELO), created in 1972, is a unique federation of national and regional associations from the 27 EU Member States and beyond, which represents the interests of landowners, land managers and rural entrepreneurs at the European political level.





Other  
Stakeholders



European Landowners' Organization

67 Members  
Organisations



&



## **ISSUES & POLICIES**

Agriculture, Biodiversity & Natura 2000, Forestry, Innovation, Property rights and rural areas, Climate Change, CAP, private conservation

## **PROJECTS**

ELO runs its own projects and networks like the Wildlife Estates, which is now the largest private conservation network in Europe, but also a large number of EU projects on related topics, whether H2020, Erasmus+, LIFE or Marie Curie

## **AWARDS**

Soil Award, Bee Award, Belleuropa Award, Tree of the Year

## **EVENTS**

General Assemblies, Forum for the Future of Agriculture, field visits, thematic and project conferences & workshops: Innovation and Agriculture, New Technologies, Biodiversity....

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Activity reports, bi-monthly CountrySide Magazine, thematic publications

## **COMMUNICATION**

The ELO online: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, newsletters, intranet

# Securing the Future of Europe's Forests

## The need for active & Sustainable Forest Management

- SFM is a well established concept defined, together with criteria and indicators, at Pan European Level (Forest Europe)
- It strives for a balanced approach between the economic, environmental and social functions of forests
- The implementation of SFM is part of a dynamic process given changes that forests are facing, namely climate change.
- Forest owners are the most aware of the need for such dynamism.

# Securing the Future of Europe's Forests

## The importance of sustainable use

- Societal expectations towards forests have been changing and rising
- Often public and political signals are contradictory
- Much societal interest, little willingness to pay or even cover costs.
- Many and diverse needs from the same forests
- Need to recognise stewardship for multifunctional forests
- Strong bioeconomy, climate mitigation and conservation are possible with the right tools and recognition of the true stewards of the land

# Securing the Future of Europe's Forests

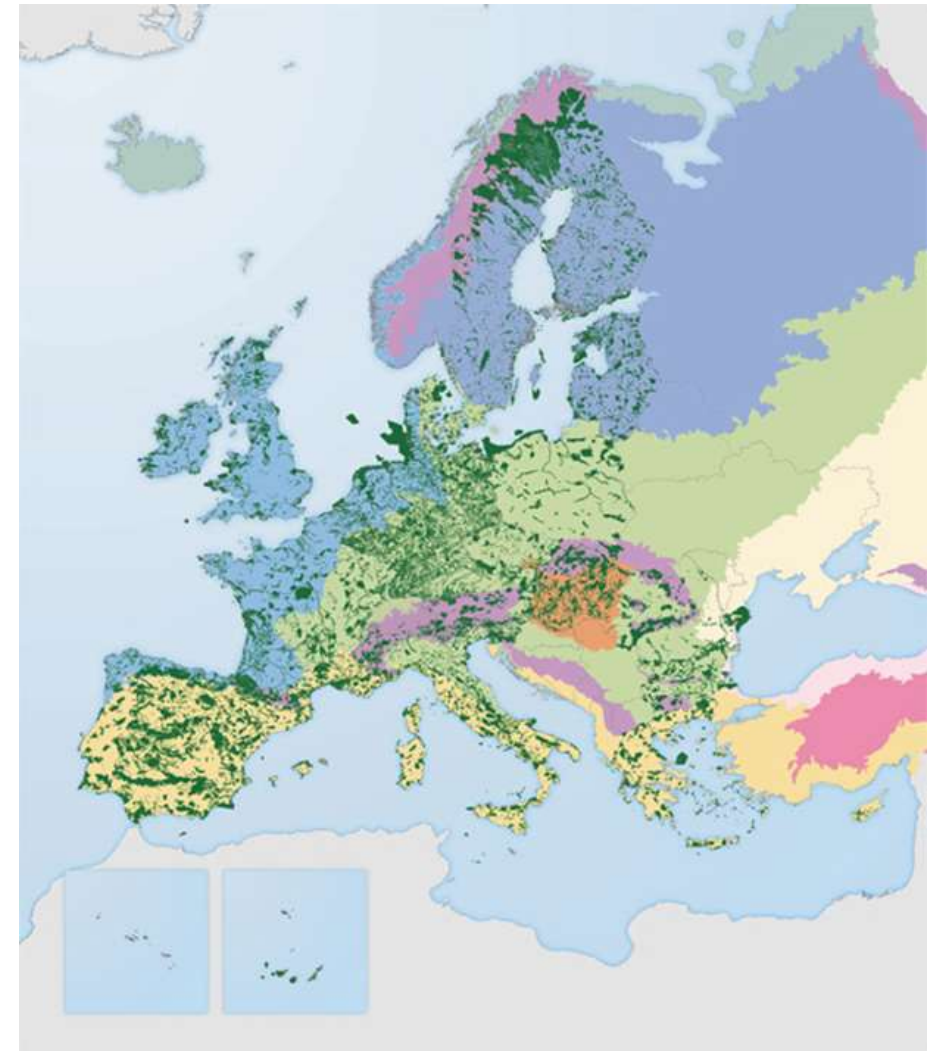
## The importance of property rights

- Property rights are fundamental for strong democracies;
- Strong property rights, enshrined in law, create trust and certainty and are essential for long-term investment and stewardship
- Encourages Sustainable Forest Management
- Weak rights lead to poor forest outcomes



# Current threats to ownership & use

- Overregulation
- Excessive zoning and protection zones
- Little care for compensation and loss of rights
- Undervalued role of private forest owners
- ...



Natura 2000 network

# Instead, we advocate for

- Recognition of forest owners as partners and those who are the stewards of the land
- Secure rights across the EU
- Support for voluntary conservation (Wildlife Estates; OECMs...)
- Promote climate-smart, biodiversity-friendly incentives

# To sum up

- Forest owners are solution providers, not obstacles
- Policymakers must:
  - Respect ownership
  - Enable management
  - Support sustainable use
- “No forest future without those who own and manage them today.”

**Thank you for the attention**

More on [www.elo.org](http://www.elo.org)