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What's on next week?

- **7 May:** CDG Organic Farming
- **9 May:** Europe Day
- **27-28 May:** CEJA Presidium

Save the date - CEJA General Assembly

The CEJA General Assembly will take place in Sweden this year in collaboration with LRF and DeLaval.

Here's what you need to know in terms of the practicalities:

27 June: arrival and welcome dinner in Stockholm

28 June: conference in the morning and general assembly in the afternoon (all at Hamra Farm, 30 minutes from Stockholm)

29 June: farm visits

30 June: departure

More information will be sent to you in due course.

What's new with CEJA?

CEJA Presidium and working group - registration open!

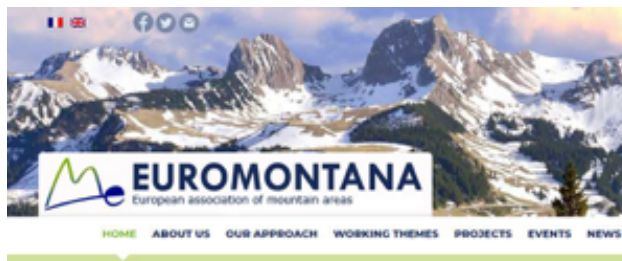


The CEJA Presidium and working group will take place **in Brussels on 27 and 28 May**. [Here](#) is the **draft agenda**. Make sure you [register](#) before **20 May**.

Only **two representatives from each member organisation can attend the Presidium**, a third representative may be accepted subject to the prior agreement of the Presidency (in this case, a written request must be sent to the Presidency at least one week before the meeting).

National organisations must **select a head of delegation**, preferably a farmer (see Article 8.2 of CEJA's [Internal Regulations](#)).

Comparative study - call for participants!



[Euromontana](#) is conducting a comparative study on the **sustainable management of mountain grasslands** across Europe.

They are collecting **good practices to sustainably manage mountain grasslands** considering current economic, social and environmental issues (e.g.

grasslands, considering current economic, social and environmental issues (e.g. depopulation, changes in land use and climate change). For instance, they have been looking into **pastoral schools, conservation of mountain pastures, tourism diversification**, etc.

They would like to receive **good practices from young farmers** (either agricultural/ environmental technical practices or local initiatives).

It would be especially interesting if there is something on **knowledge transfer, land mobility** or **generational renewal** in mountain grasslands.

If you are interested, fill in the [template](#) and send it to lauren.mosdale@euromontana.org.

Call for videos!



Dear members,

In the run-up to the **EU elections on 23-26 May**, we would like to share **videos** of you explaining why you will be voting.

The video should be:

1-minute long (maximum) and can be filmed on a phone
Ideally one version in English and one in your native language
Start by introducing yourself
Answer the question: Why are you voting?

[Here](#) is an example.

Please send your videos to allusers@ceja.eu or via WhatsApp (Fiona: 0032470432904) as soon as possible.

We will **share them on social media** using the hashtag: **#thistimeimvoting**

If you want to register on the thistimeimvoting.eu website you can do so via this [link](#).

Don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

Thank you!

What's happening in the EU?

Young farmers to get better access to credit thanks to new initiative



29 April: The European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Commission's DG AGRI launched a [joint initiative](#) for improving access to funding for young farmers in the EU this week. The related conference saw speakers including Commissioner Hogan and EIB Vice President Andrew McDowell take the stage, alongside CEJA President Jannes Maes. CEJA's **press release** about the joint initiative is available [here](#).

The joint initiative makes available a **€1 billion loan package composed of €700 million** for small and medium enterprises in the agricultural and bio-economy value chains, **of which a minimum of 10% will be allocated to young farmers**, and two pilot loans worth €275 million targeted at young farmers and climate change mitigation.

The package from the EIB is delivered in the form of green loans, meaning it

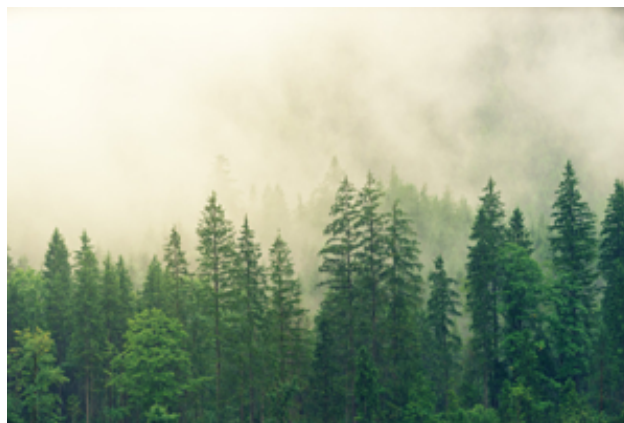
the package from the EIB is delivered in the form of group loans, meaning it is channelled **through specialised financial intermediaries like commercial banks, national/regional promotional banks** with the objective to create leverage for additional funding.

Provided with the EIB's resources, not only do the intermediaries commit themselves to deliver lower interest rates and longer maturities; they also commit themselves to finance a similar portfolio of SMEs for at least twice the amount of the EIB loan. Also, the **€ 1 billion loans from the EIB is expected to create leverage of at least an additional € 1 billion.**

The results of a fi-compass [survey](#) on financial needs and access to finance of EU agricultural enterprises were also presented at the launch, revealing that **27% of young farmers' requests of loans were rejected in 2017.** A [report](#) on using **financial instruments to reduce the impact of price volatility** in agriculture was also discussed.

Following the conference, Commissioner Hogan visited farms in the Netherlands and in Flanders to promote the initiative.

Commission launches "One-Hectare Initiative"



25-26 April: Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development **Phil Hogan** announced the **"One-Hectare Initiative"** during the "Our Forests, Our Future" conference in Brussels. The initiative will give the option to the Member States to include in their CAP Strategic Plans the possibility to **compensate farmers if they plant forest on one hectare of their land.**

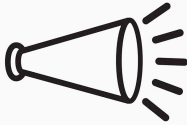
The idea is to give a **lump-sum payment per year during the next CAP through the rural development programmes** to help Member States **achieve climate and biodiversity objectives.**

Forests cover 43% of EU territory and the forest sector provides more than 3.5 million jobs in the EU.

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More information is available [here](#).

Calls & Opportunities



- Feedback on an EU Commission [roadmap](#) for **EU quality schemes** can be submitted **until 27 May**.
- [Calls for proposal](#) for the **LIFE programme** which is the EU's funding instrument for the **environment and climate action**, have been launched, with the **deadline for concept notes on 17 June 2019**.
- **Two new consultations** have been published related to EU state aid: an [evaluation](#) of state aid instruments and a [review](#) of agricultural state aid guidelines. The **deadline for feedback is 19 July**.

CEJA in the press



Noticias económicas, noticias financieras, noticias de negocios y finanzas

El BEI anuncia un paquete de préstamos de 1.000 millones de euros para la agricultura

© 29 abril, 2019

El Banco Europeo de Inversiones (BEI) ha anunciado el lanzamiento de un paquete de préstamos de casi 1.000 millones de euros para la agricultura y la bioeconomía. La suma será igualada por las instituciones financieras que implementen este plan, movilizando así cerca de 2.000 millones de euros de financiación a largo plazo para las empresas del sector. Dentro de este paquete de inversiones está previsto un programa de 700 millones de euros para pymes agrícolas, reservando un mínimo del 10% de este montante para agricultores menores de 41 años.

El plan permitirá a los jóvenes agricultores beneficiarse de unas condiciones de financiación muy competitivas como plazos más largos de hasta 15 años y hasta cinco años de gracia para atender sus

CEJA's [press release](#) about the launch of the EIB-EU Commission **joint initiative on facilitating access to funding for young farmers** was picked up by a number of media outlets across the EU, including POLITICO, Agriland in Ireland and Spanish publications.

Video of the week!



Here is Anton Öhrlund from Sweden explaining why he will be voting in the EU elections!

Civil Dialogue Groups

CDG documents available

The **documents and presentations** concerning all the Civil Dialogue Groups that

CEJA experts attend are available on the European Commission's [website](#) to view and download.

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