



EURAF

Press Release

Brno - International Capital of Agroforestry for a Week

EURAF board elections. Brno declaration.

At the [7th European Agroforestry Conference](#), held in Brno (Czechia) at Mendel University under the auspices of Minister of Agriculture **Marek Výborný** and Minister of the Environment **Petr Hladík**, 396 delegates from 43 countries heard 137 presentations on studies exploring the potential benefits of agroforestry. Many of these studies reinforced the scientific evidence of the multiple positive benefits of agroforestry for farm economics, rural landscapes, soil health, biodiversity and climate change mitigation and adaptation. As the main organiser of the event, **Jakub Houska** (Head of the Department of Landscape Ecology of the Silva Tarouca Research Institute of Landscape and Ornamental Gardening and chair of the Czech Agroforestry Association) declared the congress a success: *'Brno was the international capital of agroforestry for a week - this motivates us to continue our work on bridging research and policy, while also working closer with farmers and foresters'*.



EURAF 2024 opening ceremony. Aula of the Mendel University

The Congress was officially opened by the European Commissioner for Agriculture, **Janusz Wojciechowski**, [who in his speech](#) stressed the importance of increasing the number of trees in our agricultural

landscapes and indicated that agroforestry will become one of the first, if not the first, carbon certification methodology available.

'We in the Czech Republic have the largest agricultural land blocks in Europe, so agroforestry landscape features may divide them and thus contribute to strengthening on-farm climate resilience and improving biodiversity, without compromising production', said Bohdan Lojka, the newly elected President of the European Agroforestry Federation. Alongside Lojka (Czech University of Life Sciences), the new Board of the Federation is composed of: **Maureen Kilgore**, Vice President (Irish Agroforestry Forum - farmer); **Manuel Bertomeu**, Secretary (University of Extremadura); **Anders Lindén**, Vice Secretary (Agroforestry Sweden - farmer); **Julia Günzel**, Treasurer (German Agroforestry Association); **Stéphane Delogne**, Vice-Treasurer (Belgium - farmer). For the first time in the history of EURAF, half of the newly elected Board consists of farmers.

At the closing ceremony of the congress, the participants approved the '[Brno Agroforestry Declaration](#)'. The objective of the Declaration is to highlight key actions needed to accelerate the expansion of agroforestry systems across Europe. The Declaration focuses on the impact of agroforestry on farms and the sustainable development indicators listed in the EU Taxonomy Regulation: climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, sustainable water resources, pollution control, biodiversity and ecosystems, and circular economy.

Delegates noted that only nine Member States have introduced agroforestry measures in their CAP Strategic Plans and called on European policymakers at Union and Member State level to recognise this huge potential and integrate the promotion and support of agroforestry systems into their national agricultural, environmental and climate plans. They also drew attention to compelling evidence that regulatory constraints drastically limit the freedom farmers need to adapt their practices to local conditions and to establish effective mixed farming systems such as agroforestry.

The 8th edition of the European Agroforestry Conference will take place in Switzerland in 2026. Stay tuned for more updates!

1. About EURAF

The European Agroforestry Federation (www.euraf.net) is an NGO, established in Paris on 16/11/2012 . It aims “to promote the adoption of agroforestry practices across Europe by developing awareness, education, research, policy making and investments which foster the use of trees on farms”. It has a network of 31 affiliated entities in 25 countries.

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