

Statement of the EURAF Conference 2018

The 250 participants (farmers, researchers, NGOs, advisors, policy developers) of the 4th bi-annual Conference of the European Agroforestry Federation met on 28-30 May 2018 in Nijmegen, the European Green Capital in The Netherlands, with the explicit focus on *'Accelerating inspiring transitions towards agroforestry as a sustainable land use, including the role that agroforestry can play to mitigate and adapt to climate change'*, and pursuing the aim of *'having 50% of farmers adopting Agroforestry by 2025'*;

acknowledging that:

- a. Agroforestry is a sustainable agricultural land use system that deliberately integrates the woody component (trees or shrubs) with crops and/or livestock to deliver agricultural products from the lower storey;
- b. Agroforestry has a range of ecological, environmental and climate benefits, including: increasing carbon sequestration, adapting to climate change, a more efficient use of resources such as light, nutrients and water, enhancing biodiversity, improving the quality of air and water, boosting water retention, controlling erosion and providing beneficial micro-climates;
- c. Agroforestry increases the economic and environmental resilience of farms, reduces the impact of extreme events and creates rural employment opportunities;
- d. Agroforestry contributes to many of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;
- e. Europe benefits from a unique heritage of traditional agroforestry systems that include a high degree of innovation and must take a leading role in creating a critical mass of agroforestry farmers to show that a sustainable alternative to conventional farming is available and desirable;

conclude that a European Agroforestry Strategy should be prepared and approved that:

- a. Defines a set of policy measures that stimulate agroforestry practices at farm level, and support farmers in switching to agroforestry practices, with special attention being paid to funding investment and maintenance;
- b. Accelerates the transition and scaling up of agroforestry throughout Europe by facilitating the intense exchange of information and practices between farmers, researchers, advisors, policy developers, industry, business and consumers;
- c. Harnesses the 2021-2027 CAP to support agroforestry on a large scale across Europe;
- d. Ensures that the CAP policy measures accommodate flexible national plans, stimulates farmers in their search for optimal agroforestry solutions, and helps to develop profitable business models;
- e. Integrates agroforestry education at all relevant levels
- f. Develops a major research line in Horizon Europe (FPg) that, together with the current Rural Development Measures linked to EIP-Agri, helps to foster the knowledge and implementation of agroforestry innovations at large scale.

Prior to the adoption of the above statement, we received the following three comments:

1. Under '*acknowledging that*' a, line 1: change 'sustainable agricultural land use system' into 'sustainable land use system'. And a, line 2: change 'agricultural products' into 'sustainable agricultural products'.
2. Add to '*acknowledging that*': 'Agroforestry contributes to ending hunger'.
3. Add to '*conclude that a European Agroforestry strategy ...*' under f: g. 'Pays attention to cultural and spiritual aspects of change processes'.

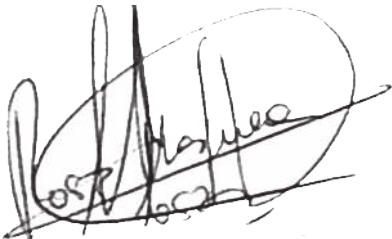
The participants agreed that EURAF would include these comments in the final report on the conference.

May 30, 2018



Louis Dolmans

President of the Organising Committee EURAF 2018



María Rosa Mosquera-Losada

President of the European Agroforestry Federation