



ENAJ LBPT – Brussels 2025

Exploring Europe's Vision for Agriculture and Food

June 4–6, 2025 | Brussels, Belgium

Wednesday, June 4 – Setting the Stage

13:00 | Arrival and registration at Hotel Villa Royale
Rue Royale 195, 1210 Brussels

Welcome packages and event badges distributed in lobby

14:00 | Departure from Hotel Villa Royale for Soil Capital by bus
Address: Rue du Buisson 19, 1360 Thorembais-Les-Beguines, Perwez

15:00 | Arrival at [Soil Capital](#)

15:00 – 15:45 | Presentation by Soil Capital

16:00 – 16:30 | Soil Health Demo & Coffee Break

17:00 – 18:00 | Field Visit

18:30 – 20:00 | Dinner sponsored by Soil Capital

20:00 | Departure for Hotel Villa Royale, Brussels

21:00 | Arrival at hotel

Thursday, June 5 – Inside the Institutions

08:00 | Transport to Berlaymont by foot (2 km) or [public transport](#)
Address: Berlaymont building, 200 Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat, Brussels (Room S.7)

08:30 | Arrival and welcome coffee

09:00 | Shaping Europe's Future: The European Commission at Work

Stephen Davies, Advisor – Strategic Foresight, Research and Science in Ocean Policies,
Directorate general Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

10:00 | Seminar: Unpackaging the EU Deforestation Regulation

Mara Grimminger, Unit Planetary Common Goods, Universal Values & Environmental,
Security Directorate general Environment

11:00 | Key session: Meeting with [Commissioner Christophe Hansen](#)

The Commissioner for Agriculture and Food unveils the EU's new Vision for Agriculture
and Food, followed by Q&A session

12:15 | 13:30 | Mix & mingle lunch with [Copa-Cogeca](#) (To be confirmed)

13:45 | Arrival at Berlaymont

14:00 | Briefings on agriculture-related topics from [DG-AGRI](#)

Trade in agri-food products

Flavio Cotumi, Head of Unit Agriculture, Food and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Matters,
DG-TRADE

Topic: TBA

Ricard Ramon I Sumoy

Head of Unit, Policy Perspectives, DG-AGRI

Climate action in agrifood value chain

Christian Holzleitner, Head of Unit Low Carbon Solutions (III): Land Economy & Carbon
Removals, DG-CLIMA

15:00 | Seminar on trade topics (Mercosur/Ukraine/US)

Olof Gill, Spokesperson, DG-TRADE

16:15 | Visit to [European Broadcasting Service](#)

Tour and Q&A with staff about media protocols, press access and resources.

Fred D'Hondt, Audiovisual Service, DG-Communication

17:00 | End of program

17:30 | 18:30 | Break – Free time to recharge before the evening program

19:00 | Networking dinner with ENAJ Associate Members

Bistro Martin, Boulevard Charlemagne 80, 1000 Brussels

Speakers: Pieter Verhelst, board member, [Boerenbond](#)

Meghan Sapp, European Alliance for Regenerative Agriculture (EARA)
Dinner sponsored by [EARA](#)

Friday, June 6 – Farming the Future

08:15 | Depart Hotel Villa Royale by bus with luggage
Transport provided by Boerenbond

09:00 | Arrival at Magnus family farm
Mollemstraat 15, 1785 Merchtem

10:45 | Departure for the farm of Joris Claeys in Lennik

11:30 | Arrival at Joris Claeys' farm
Luitenant Jacopsstraat 110, 1750 Lennik

13:15 | Departure for Brussels North train station

14:00 | End of program
Participants will be dropped off at Brussels North Station. Bagged lunch provided on the bus.

Additional information

Soil Capital is a Belgium-based agronomic and financial advisory company dedicated to accelerating the transition to regenerative agriculture across Europe. Operating in the voluntary carbon market, the company empowers farmers to adopt climate-friendly practices by monetizing the environmental value of their work—specifically through carbon certificates rather than traditional carbon credits.

Working with over 1,800 farmers across Belgium, France, and the United Kingdom, Soil Capital offers a comprehensive support program that quantifies and verifies carbon outcomes using robust, science-based methodologies. The company employs internationally recognized MRV (Monitoring, Reporting, Verification) processes, utilizing tools such as the Regrow and Cool Farm Tool models. These models calculate greenhouse gas emissions reductions and carbon sequestration compared to each farm's baseline. Independent third-party audits validate results, which are registered online to ensure transparency and traceability.

Soil Capital collaborates with food industry actors—processors, retailers, and brands—who are increasingly investing in resilient agricultural supply chains. Rather than

focusing on the trade of offsets, Soil Capital's carbon certificates enable these partners to support emission reductions within their value chains. Importantly, the majority of the financial benefits flow back to the farmers themselves, reflecting Soil Capital's "farmer-first" ethos.

The company's founding team blends agricultural and financial expertise: one co-founder is a practicing farmer, while the other comes from the finance industry. Their shared goal is to create a reliable and farmer-centric model that supports scalable, credible climate action.

In addition to field operations, Soil Capital runs Genesis, an experimental plot near its headquarters in Perwez, Wallonia, where it tests regenerative practices like agroforestry and cover cropping. The site also serves as an educational hub for policymakers and stakeholders. The company's agronomy and impact teams—including co-founder Nico and Head of Impact Andrew Voysey—are frequently involved in EU-level discussions, including with DG AGRI and as observers in emerging policy frameworks such as the Carbon Farming Certification Framework (CFCF).

Soil Capital's long-term mission is to create a robust, scalable system that makes regenerative agriculture economically viable and environmentally impactful—ensuring that both farmers and the planet can thrive.

The European Alliance for Regenerative Agriculture is a coalition working to advance regenerative agriculture across Europe. EARA brings together farmers, food businesses, researchers and advocates who share a common goal: to make agriculture more resilient, nature-positive and economically viable. By fostering collaboration across sectors, the alliance promotes farming practices that restore soil health, increase biodiversity, and strengthen local food systems. Through policy engagement, public outreach and knowledge exchange, EARA supports a transition toward regenerative models that benefit both people and the planet.

Copa-Cogeca is the united voice of European farmers and agri-cooperatives, representing over 22 million farmers and their families through Copa, and 22,000 agri-cooperatives via Cogeca. Together, they advocate for a sustainable, innovative, and competitive agricultural sector that ensures food security for 500 million EU citizens. Their work encompasses key policy areas such as the Common Agricultural Policy, environmental sustainability, trade, and rural development, aiming to support the future of European agriculture.

Boerenbond is the leading professional organisation for farmers, horticulturists, and green space managers in Flanders and eastern Belgium. Founded in 1890 and headquartered in Leuven, it represents a wide range of agricultural enterprises—from small family farms to large operations—across all sectors and production systems.

Boerenbond's mission is to help build a resilient and sustainable agriculture and horticulture sector by focusing on ecological, economic, social, and societal dimensions.

The organisation provides advocacy, advisory services, education, innovation support, networking, and public engagement. It is also closely linked to MRBB, a financial holding that supports agricultural research and development. Boerenbond plays a key role in shaping agricultural policy and helping farmers adapt to evolving challenges.

Magnus LV – Brussegem-Merchtem

Sam Magnus runs a family farm specializing in Belgian endives (witloof/chicory), including high-end mini varieties destined for restaurant use. The operation is managed by Sam and his parents, with involvement from his siblings. The farm carries out the entire production cycle—from seed to finished product—on site, combining witloof cultivation with other edible crops and practicing crop rotation for soil health. The family has previously experimented with sweet potatoes. Sam, a former vice president of the Belgian Young Farmers Union, is known for his articulate advocacy of farming and policy, and the farm integrates modern technologies such as robotics.

Joris Claeys runs a mixed family farm in Lennik, at the heart of the Pajottenland region. His operation includes beef cattle and arable crops and takes a circular approach that reuses manure from the animals to fertilize his own fields—ensuring nothing goes to waste.

On his land, Joris grows sugar beets, potatoes and feed crops such as maize, grass and wheat. These products are available directly to consumers through a vending machine at the farm. Committed to sustainability, he has invested in solar panels for renewable energy and a 400,000-litre rainwater reservoir used for crop protection, cleaning and potentially future livestock drinking water.

After harvest, he plants cover crops like yellow mustard to enhance soil health and prevent erosion. On steeper slopes, he builds erosion dams to retain fertile soil. His farming methods reflect a deep respect for the landscape and natural cycles, making his farm a leading example of sustainable agriculture in Pajottenland.

Hotel Villa Royale ***

Address: Rue Royale 195, 1210 Brussels (800m from Brussels North station)

Single room for two nights (June 4 and 5)

Breakfast included

WiFi throughout

Transportion

Brussels International Airport (Zaventem) is the best option for smooth transfer by train. The train station is situated in the airport directly beneath the arrivals floor. Take the train from Brussels-Airport to Brussels-North. Tickets can be bought at a terminal in the station. Transfer takes just 10 minutes and costs €11.20. If you choose to fly into Brussels Charleroi, note that transfer time to the hotel is longer (1h20) and [more complicated](#).

Questions? Contact:

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