

**PRESS RELEASE**

## **Heading into the final week of voting, with the Polish, Spanish and Portuguese finalists in the lead**

(BRUSSELS, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022) **One week left to vote for the 12th European Tree of the Year. The number of votes the finalists received will begin to be secret from 12:00 a.m. CET on 22<sup>th</sup> of February. This year 16 countries are participating and the current top three positions are held by the Polish, Spanish and Portuguese contestants. Voting is open until 12:00 p.m. CET on 28<sup>th</sup> of February at [www.treeoftheyear.org](http://www.treeoftheyear.org).**

After a three-year break due to covid-19 restrictions, the **Award Ceremony** will again take place in Brussels. The results will be revealed on **22<sup>nd</sup> of March at 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. CET at rue du Trone 130**. Festive event to celebrate the natural and historical heritage of Europe will also be streamed online. The results announcement will be accompanied by the **“Planting4Future”** conference, starting at 3 p.m. A second edition of our working conference on how to reach the 3 billion trees pledge in Europe by 2030 will focus on two major aspects: *data on tree plantations and carbon offsetting as one of the motivations for participation of companies in tree planting.*

*Thierry de l'Escaille, Secretary General of the ELO said: "Trees can be real game changers in addressing several challenges simultaneously. This is why Planting4Future should address multiple issues, and especially climate change. It is only by managing multiple forest functions sustainably that we will make the most of their climate potential, such as providing substitutes to carbon-intensive products, and maximising carbon sequestration and storage."*

The Award Ceremony will be hosted by the Head of the Czech Permanent Representation to the EU, H.E. Ambassador Edita Hrdá and by patrons of the European Tree of the Year competition, MEP Ludek Niedermayer and MEP Michal Wiezik.



The last visible ranking is as follows:

<b>1st</b>	<b>Oak Dunin</b>	<b>Poland</b>	<b>138.208 votes</b>
<b>2nd</b>	<b>Oak of Conxo's Banquet Forest</b>	<b>Spain</b>	<b>122.176 votes</b>
<b>3rd</b>	<b>The Big Cork Oak</b>	<b>Portugal</b>	<b>49.701 votes</b>
<b>4th</b>	<b>The Turgenev oak</b>	<b>Russia</b>	<b>42.214 votes</b>
<b>5th</b>	<b>Chestnut of the hundred horses</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<b>35.442 votes</b>
<b>6th</b>	<b>Umbrella from High Tatras</b>	<b>Slovakia</b>	<b>28.390 votes</b>
<b>7th</b>	<b>Kippford Leaning Tree</b>	<b>United Kingdom (Scotland)</b>	<b>24.928 votes</b>
<b>8th</b>	<b>Age Grand Oak</b>	<b>Latvia</b>	<b>22.339 votes</b>
<b>9th</b>	<b>The Multiseclar Sweet Chestnut of Audran Square</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>22.210 votes</b>
<b>10th</b>	<b>The weeping sophoras of the Csokonai Theatre in Debrecen</b>	<b>Hungary</b>	<b>21.146 votes</b>
<b>11th</b>	<b>The Singing Lime</b>	<b>Czech Republic</b>	<b>20.852 votes</b>
<b>12th</b>	<b>The Giant Sequoia of the Collège Notre Dame de Bonlieu</b>	<b>Belgium</b>	<b>20.350 votes</b>
<b>13th</b>	<b>The giant sequoia from Slatina</b>	<b>Republic of Croatia</b>	<b>20.276 votes</b>
<b>14th</b>	<b>The King's Pine</b>	<b>Estonia</b>	<b>20.062 votes</b>
<b>15th</b>	<b>I am Tilia</b>	<b>The Netherlands</b>	<b>20.061 votes</b>
<b>16th</b>	<b>Grandpa Kolyo's tree</b>	<b>Bulgaria</b>	<b>20.050 votes</b>

Download the pictures of this year's tree finalists [here](#).

**Media Contacts:**

Josef Jary, Communication officer [josef.jary@nap.cz](mailto:josef.jary@nap.cz) — (+32) 493 84 35 01

The **Environmental Partnership Association** (EPA) is a leading environmental organization established for almost 30 years in Central and Eastern Europe. With a team of 80 employees, the EPA operates in 6 countries via its 6-member foundations in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. The EPA boasts 30-years of experience in project coordination and carrying out activities oriented to changing people's mind-sets in order to protect and improve the environment.

[www.environmentalpartnership.org](http://www.environmentalpartnership.org)



The **European Landowners' Organization** (ELO), created in 1972, is a unique federation of national associations from the 28 EU Member States and beyond, which represents the interests of landowners, land managers and rural entrepreneurs at the European political level. Independent and non-profit making, the ELO is the only organization able to stand for all rural entrepreneurs. The ELO promotes a prosperous countryside through private property dynamism. Its Secretariat is based in Brussels.

[www.europeanlandowners.org](http://www.europeanlandowners.org)



The **European Tree of the Year** is a contest that highlights the significance of trees in the natural and cultural heritage of Europe and the importance of the ecosystem services trees provide. The contest is not looking for the most beautiful tree, but for a tree with a story, a tree rooted in the lives and work of the people and the community that surrounds it.

[www.treeoftheyear.org](http://www.treeoftheyear.org)

THE CONTEST IS ORGANISED BY



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