

PRESS RELEASE

## The 2023 European Tree of the Year vote has begun! This year with a new participating country - Ukraine

(BRUSSELS, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023) **The European Tree of the Year contest award ceremony is back at the European Parliament in 2023 and with it trees from 16 European countries competing for the award of a tree with the most intriguing story. You can find the national nominees and take part in the vote between February 1<sup>st</sup> and February 28<sup>th</sup> at [www.treeoftheyear.org](http://www.treeoftheyear.org).**

On Wednesday February 1<sup>st</sup>, the Environmental Partnership Association supported by the European Landowners Organisation launched the final vote in the 2023 European Tree of the Year (ETY) contest on a [new website](#). It was preceded by the national Tree of the Year rounds which once again selected a diverse variety of nominees. You will find the full list of this year's contenders together with their stories [here](#). **Voting is open to the public from February 1<sup>st</sup> 8:00 AM CET and will run until February 28<sup>th</sup> 23:59 PM CET.** Beginning February 22<sup>nd</sup> 00:00, the current vote counts will be hidden until the end of the vote.

16 trees from 16 countries are competing in the contest at the end of which the one with the most interesting story will become this year's European Tree of the Year. Symbols of old times, survivors in hostile conditions, or witnesses of our coexistence with nature, remarkable trees from **Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, and the United Kingdom** tell inspiring and thought-provoking accounts. In addition to these countries, this year the organisers are most delighted to welcome **Ukraine** to the ETY family for the first time. *"The participation of Ukraine and its apple tree reminds us yet again that the stories attached to the trees which we celebrate through this contest are not merely a thing of the past. Trees are witnesses of the past as well as the present. Reflecting on this, we remind ourselves that they are also an integral part of our future and heroes in the stories we are yet to write,"* says Adam Holub, one of the ETY organisers.

To help us familiarise ourselves with the competing trees, Rob McBride, the British tree hunter, is again touring the finalist trees with a resolution to physically visit as many as possible. **On February 1<sup>st</sup>**, Rob begins his tour in **Łódź, Poland** with the **Oak Fabrykant** before moving on to see the **Pear Tree in Drásov, Czech Republic** on **February 3<sup>rd</sup>**. *"Rob's engagement with our contest has been temporarily severely limited during the covid period and we are very happy that he is back on track spreading awareness of our contenders and our award,"* says Kateřina Bolečková, the Contest Coordinator. You can join the ETY team in following Mr McBride's journey at Rob's [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts.

After a period marked by ceremonies in online and hybrid formats, the organisers of the 2023 ETY announce that the Award Ceremony of the contest is going to return to the European Parliament. Placed under the patronage of MEPs Luděk Nidermayer and Michal Wiezik, the **Award Ceremony** will take place **on March 21<sup>st</sup> in the EP's József Antall building, restaurant space JAN 3Q.**

*"Trees are an integral part of our landscape, producing the oxygen vital to our existence and essential cornerstones in the fight against climate change. Trees are also places of Memory. Trees witness the changes from one generation to the next, as well as changes in our societies. Let's value them as partners in our life, a life that sometimes needs to slow down to let us gaze into the crown of a century-old tree to realise our finitude. The current conflict in Ukraine shows us how the world would benefit if certain people would just*

*sit under a tree and think about the consequences of their decisions..."* says Luděk Nidermayer, MEP and ambassador of the European Tree of the Year contest.

[Download the tree pictures here](#)

**Milestones:**

- 1.–28. 2. 2023: Public voting on [www.treeoftheyear.org](http://www.treeoftheyear.org)
- 22.–28. 2. 2023: Secret voting (hidden vote counts)
- 21. 3. 2023: ETY Award Ceremony at the European Parliament, József Antall building, space JAN 3Q

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**Finalists of the European Tree of the Year 2023**

Name of the tree	Country
<a href="#">The Brown Cherry Pear of Klerken</a>	Belgium
<a href="#">Plane Tree</a>	Bulgaria
<a href="#">The Oak from Drežnica Field</a>	Croatia
<a href="#">The Pear Tree in Drásov</a>	Czech Republic
<a href="#">The Purple Beech of Reigi</a>	Estonia
<a href="#">The Weeping Beech of Cassel Mount</a>	France
<a href="#">The Bridge Plane Tree</a>	Hungary
<a href="#">Palermo Botanical Garden's Giant Ficus</a>	Italy
<a href="#">Sēja Oak</a>	Latvia
<a href="#">The Marquis' Oak</a>	Netherlands
<a href="#">Oak Fabrykant</a>	Poland
<a href="#">Eucalyptus of Contige</a>	Portugal
<a href="#">Common Oak - Dragon Oak</a>	Slovakia
<a href="#">Spanish Oak of San Roque</a>	Spain
<a href="#">Apple Tree Colony from Krolevtsi</a>	Ukraine
<a href="#">Waverley Abbey Yew</a>	the United Kingdom

The **Environmental Partnership Association (EPA)** is a leading environmental organisation 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' Organisation (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 organisation 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:



## SUPPORT:



## NATIONAL CONTEST ORGANISERS:

