

Peter H. Feindt:

**Greening European Agricultural Policy – multi-level strategies between trade, budget, agricultural and environmental policy**

Environmental effects of modern agriculture are among the more intricate problems of European environmental policy. In the first part, this paper will show that the institutional framework in the EU is not conducive for policy integration. If in consensus, European sectoral councils can decide rather unconnected with each other. Thus, the integration of environmental policy issues into the Common European Agricultural Policy (CAP) has to go through the European Agricultural Council. The premise that European agriculture is generally considered as multifunctional and as a provider of environmental goods prevents crossfire from environmental policy-makers, and standards of good practice are defined in the agricultural policy arena.

In the second part, the paper will provide a comparative analysis of four different strategies through which environmental concerns have entered the CAP:

- introduction of agro-environmental programs as part of major CAP reforms since 1989 in the face of budget crisis (interplay between EU budget and agricultural policy);
- 2003 CAP reform as a move to comply with WTO rules for domestic support (interplay between WTO framework, EU trade and agricultural policy): decoupling of direct payments from production which had stimulated intensive domestic production patterns, and introduction of a cross compliance clause that requires recipients of direct payments to comply with minimum environmental standards;
- interplay between national and European environmental norms for good agricultural practice (with the amendment of German nature conservation law and cross compliance as examples);
- and implementation of rules for eco-labelling on national, European and WTO level (interplay between trade and environmental policy).

Finally, the policy impact will be critically assessed.