

October 2008

Editorial

The challenges to be faced by the agricultural world that we are shaping are numerous, especially in the context of tensions on the financial, agricultural products, food and energy markets. The debate on the evolution of the CAP and its "health check" recently developed even further as the French Presidency presented its document "How to best prepare the CAP of the future?" to tackle the post-2013 issues.

The equation to be solved is far reaching and complicated but has to stay balanced to ensure the sustainable development of businesses and rural areas. The parameters to underline are food security, health and energy security, climate change, biodiversity conservation and delivery of environmental services, both on a European Union- and global level. The quantitative and qualitative issues are becoming even more important as the number of active substances providing for consumer protection is declining, while use of them becomes ever more refined – notably via integrated farming techniques.

The communication vis-à-vis the wider public and society's approval of the recommended new reforms will be of great importance, as the support of EU citizens in respect of their commitment to agriculture and environmental services delivered by the EU is crucial. November will be rich in debates of direct concern to us and the position we take will be dealt with and further developed both in the CountrySide as well as during the 2nd Forum on the Future of Agriculture, which we are co-organising on the 18th of March 2009 in Brussels. I encourage you to keep in mind this date and to send us your comments and suggestions in the meantime.

Thierry de l'ESCAILLE

How to best prepare the future CAP?



During the informal meeting in Annecy the 27 agriculture ministers of the European Union met on Tuesday 23 September in plenary session in the presence of the president-in-office of the Agriculture Council, Michel BARNIER, the European agriculture and rural development Commissioner, Mariann FISCHER BOEL and the chairman of the committee on agriculture of the European Parliament Neil PARISH. The objective of these exchanges was to launch the debate on the future of the common agricultural policy after 2013 during the French presidency during the current 'health check' discussions intended to adjust the current regulations by 2013.

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With the support of
EC DG Environment

CountrySide

is a publication of ELO in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish.

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5 Euros

How to best prepare the future CAP

Now that the negotiations on the health check are well underway it is time to start a debate on the future of the CAP. A discussion is needed on the main trends of this policy in a new context. This is the intention of the discussions of this informal Council.

1 – The new context: a shared conclusion

The price increases of certain agricultural raw materials since 2006, in particular cereals, oil seeds, butter and milk powder, have created a new context. This raises questions among consumers due to pressure on food prices but also in the agricultural sector due to an increase in the cost of livestock farming.

According to the experts, whose analyses are summarized in the document "Agricultural perspectives 2008-2017" jointly published last May by the OECD and FAO, this situation is the result of cyclical factors linked to a succession of bad weather conditions in producer/exporter countries, but also to structural changes in demand due to population increase, a change in nutritional habits and the development of biofuels.

For the future the main question to be addressed when constructing an agricultural policy is whether this is likely to go on. The increase in agricultural productivity, together with the emergence of second generation biofuels which compete less with nutritional uses, should defuse the ten-

sion on certain raw materials markets. However for the next decade at least agriculture will probably be unsure about what the final balance between supply and demand will turn out to be.

There is a broad consensus in the analyses regarding greater price instability due to:

- Greater market openness
- Climate change which will increase the frequency and gravity of natural hazards
- New health crises and their repercussions on the markets.

Moreover the strategies and agricultural policies of the other large producing zones (USA, Brazil) must be factored in, as well as how changing demand will be met in the big consumption zones (China, India). The decisions of these major partners are likely to affect global prices in the medium to long-term. Some of them have already gone for options with serious consequences such as the new Farm Bill in the United States or Brazil with its biofuels policy.

Finally the production methods in Europe, or some of them at least, could be seriously called into question due to several already visible phenomena.

Global warming affects farming directly and its capacity to adapt its practices and make a contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions:

Competition over the use of land leads to conflicts of use between the agricultural world and the rest of society. The same applies incidentally to sharing water resources.



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The ongoing increases in energy costs, the scarcity of water resources and soil exhaustion all raise the question of the long-term viability of our production systems.

To this we must add growing doubts about the impact of these production methods on public health and the environment.

An open debate is necessary to determine to what extent today's CAP should be adjusted to respond to such a new context. Let us however not lose sight of the fact that such a debate should be part of a more general approach to world governance, since the CAP alone cannot solve problems such as hunger or climate change.

Can we agree on the likely future developments and the need to take them into account?

2 – The challenges of the future CAP

Agriculture is at the heart of tomorrow's economic, ecological and societal challenges. The job-creation potential of its economic power, its local focus, its links to a dynamic agri-food sector and its contribution to the environ-

ment make it one of the major sectors of Europe's strategy.

The CAP can acquire new legitimacy if it succeeds in demonstrating that it can respond to these undisputed, clearly identified common needs. These needs are basically the three major challenges facing European society.

The nutritional challenge

In recent decades everyone had come to believe that our food needs had finally been secured and that the major challenge facing agricultural policy was to reduce supply, at least in the developed world; but the context has changed with rocketing prices of certain agricultural raw materials and world stocks at very low levels. Even though some of the causes are cyclical, tension on agricultural markets has deep-seated reasons which are likely to last. The population continues to increase with a likely 9 billion individuals by 2050. The rapid increase in living standards in the emerging countries has led to a change in eating habits in favour of animal protein. These changes will lead to a doubling in the demand for food by 2050. At the same

time hunger in the world has not been reduced and today affects over 800 million people. Social upheaval due to increases in food prices shows that as well as producing enough food, access to that food has again become a strategic challenge.

Gains in productivity are of course still possible, but potential production increases are seriously threatened by falling yields in certain areas of the world, by climate change and by land becoming barren due to urbanization and infrastructure projects. These developments make the challenge of production the main issue that the world's farmers need to address. Europe with its proven agricultural potential must contribute while restricting possible distortions caused by its policies. The European Union has broadly reformed its agricultural policy by restricting or abolishing instruments causing distortions, cutting its refunds in half over 15 years and decoupling aid to farmers. Moreover in the WTO the European Union has undertaken to abolish refunds if its partners make the same effort in return. As well as this quantitative challenge the CAP should respond more to the need for quality and diversity in nutrition. Consumers will become even stricter over health and safety as well as showing concern for public health issues linked to balanced eating (the problem of obesity).

Finally the nutritional challenge also means our ability to give the poorest among our fellow citizens access to nutrition. Currently the relevant European programme is being jeopardized by the low level of the stocks it

had been drawing on. It needs to be strengthened and consolidated in an enlarged Europe.

The environmental challenge

Our fellow citizens will increasingly want to know more than whether farming is complying with environmental regulations, however demanding they already are. They will at least be just as concerned about the production of environmental goods. This is an opportunity for agriculture, and is at the heart of the major ecological balances of our planet. In fact farming is an unavoidable stakeholder in the conservation of natural resources, biodiversity, the fight against pollution but also the reduction of greenhouse gases. However we must not lose sight of the fact this objective is no longer a foregone conclusion in a world which is experiencing the return of scarcity. Doubling food production in the future will involve a big increase in agricultural productivity, while environmental conservation may require restraining this same productivity. After meeting the need for food and achieving a high level of health and safety, agriculture must now reconcile economic performance and ecological efficiency based on sustainable development. These new circumstances will affect farming worldwide, will determine its survival and consequently its capacity to feed the world's rapidly increasing population.

Agricultural policy must respond to the increase in world demand, make farming economic in its inputs and provide it with job-creation potential. It should also focus on making agriculture a producer of renewable energies and biomaterials as part of the fight against global warming.

Environmental policy can no longer be considered as the opposite or even as separate from agricultural policy. This new dimension is not simply a new approach to developing agriculture but is also one of the conditions for the long-term legitimacy of any agricultural policy.

To achieve this we must draw on the possibilities offered by new technologies and therefore grant a central role to research, innovation and advisory services. This dimension is part of the Lisbon strategy.

The challenge of territory

Logically a global economy leads to concentrating production and jobs in the most competitive areas. The CAP however must maintain viable farming everywhere:

- because it ensures the economic survival of many rural areas with limited alternatives and generates a fabric of small and medium-sized enterprises with local roots,
- because it creates diversity in the means of production and nutrition,
- because it forms the basis for the quality of the landscape which in turn creates value (tourism and an attractive environment),
- because it contributes to territorial cohesion – a major component of social cohesion in a largely urban society.

These different types of farm, as long as they are economically viable and ecologically sustainable, must be preserved and consolidated by the CAP as it develops. The member states support them through their rural policies. Preserving farming by maintaining large numbers of farmers in

all areas where agriculture is the mainstay of the economy, including the most fragile, is a way of preserving Europe's identity.

Against this background any new agricultural policy should meet 4 objectives:

- ensure the European Union's food security while accommodating the relevant health issues given the increase in health risks;
- contribute to a global food balance to boost global food security and seek a place on the markets of the future;
- preserve the balance in the countryside to maintain territorial cohesion and local focus on business and jobs;
- participate in the fight against climate change and improve the environment to build a form of agriculture which reconciles economic performance and ecological efficiency.

These goals are largely those set for the CAP in the Treaty of Rome, such as security of supply or reasonable consumer prices. The dual environmental and territorial dimension is at the heart of various strategies developed by the European Union. It is important for the CAP to take it increasingly on board.

3 – Some ideas to discuss for the future CAP

The high demands being placed on Europe's producers through health, environmental and even collective preferences such as animal welfare, are legitimate since they meet society's expectation. However, they are expensive for producers. European farming therefore needs protecting from distortions, and a balance must be struck between competitiveness and society's



expectations. Can the European Union stop compensating its farmers for the higher demands placed on them than elsewhere and instead promote fair trade rules?

Phenomena such as market volatility and climate and health hazards are likely to increase. An ability to cope will determine whether a sustainable production base can survive in Europe. Moreover the question of the legitimacy of aids totally disconnected from the real market situation needs addressing. Are the current individual, pre-set support schemes capable of meeting this challenge or should they be complemented by less static tools which comply with international rules?

New techniques will resolve the potential contradiction between the need to produce more and that of producing better. With this in mind it would be logical to make the innovation issue a dimension of the CAP of tomorrow so that it supports a form of farming which respects the environment. As was the case at the beginnings of the CAP when the aim was to mod-

ernize European agriculture, this time we need new instruments able to introduce productive and sustainable techniques as widely as possible for the purposes of environmental conservation.

Should the CAP include future support for agriculture and the agri-food industry designed to encourage innovation which respects the environment? European agriculture is above all highly diverse. Today the CAP caters for this diversity in rural development, through aid to less-favoured zones or agri-environmental measures, designed using criteria relating to the physical characteristics of the land. As for the first pillar of the CAP, it is based on the uniform character of its support. This uniformity of support must not stifle the diversity of Europe's territories and produce. The most fragile of these and those which fully include the environmental dimension must of course enjoy special support.

Does an efficient CAP mean catering more in future for the diversity of production systems and their needs?

ELO point of view

ELO is closely following the evolution of the reforms and of the approach proposed by this document from the French Presidency, which will certainly influence the vote taking place the 19th of November in the European Parliament on the "health check" document, written by the European Commission. More than 1000 amendments were dropped by the European deputies, including such issues as the percentage of modulation, the abolition of set-asides and the milk quotas. It is important to underline that Michel BARNIER took the decision to handle as binding the results of the EP vote, even if this problem will be included in the co-decision procedure of the Lisbon Treaty only after the ratification by all 27 EU Member States.

November will bring fundamental answers on the shape of the CAP. We will present you shortly our comments and expectations both in the CountrySide and during the 2nd Forum on the Future of Agriculture, taking place the 18th of March 2009 in Brussels.

■ ELO Editing Team



EUROPEAN HISTORIC HOUSES ASSOCIATIONS (UEHHA)

Heritage sites

A tool for integration, awareness and cultural exchange

In 2007 the European Union set itself a new cultural agenda intended to intensify cooperation in the era of globalisation. More than ever it promotes learning from the experiences of other countries and sharing those experiences with other interested partners. In such a context restored buildings play an important role as centres for training, integration and new contacts.

Today no one would deny that culture can play an essential role in the integration process because of its many social, economic and political implications. Heritage restoration sites established for training purposes are good examples of this. In recent years associations all over Europe have been running courses in restoration on historic sites. Each group of volunteers, each course, social network or school outing has its own objectives but all make a full contribution to conservation and awareness through promoting our cultural heritage.

In Belgium for example for almost ten years the old Cistercian abbey of Paix-Dieu has housed a centre for improving heritage skills. Through a series of courses aimed at various professions in the heritage sector, this centre managed by the Wallonian Heritage Institute passes on architectural know-how in a unique and remarkable fashion. Some forty courses combining theory and practice are run on different sites and in the abbey itself, which is still under restoration. Excursions are organized for schools intended to make children more aware of their heritage and the quality of their environment (www.paixdieu.be).

In the same spirit the German foundation for the protection of monuments, the Deutsche Stiftung Denkmalschutz has created a programme designed to introduce children to Europe's cultural heritage. The Jugendbauhütten are practical and theoretical one-year courses covering all disciplines linked to monument conservation. As well as gradual skill acquisition, young people enjoy work experience in groups and also the pleasure of contributing to the visible success of a project to restore part of their common heritage (www.denkmalschutz.de/jugendbauhuetten0.html).

There is also the "International training centre for the conservation of buildings" in Bontida in Romania which has already trained some 800 people from 13 European countries while contributing to the renovation of the baroque Castle of Banffy (www.heritagetrainingbanffycastle.org).

These three associations have recently received awards from the European Union and Europa Nostra. Rempart, a French association, has been organizing holidays



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with a difference for thousands of young people every year for forty years. They can volunteer to restore historical sites across France and even abroad. There is no need for prior experience since the enthusiastic team teach the children traditional restoration techniques as part of a project. But as well as being educated and learning about their heritage, these sites provide the opportunity for intercultural contacts and exchanges, for dialogue and new commitments (www.rempart.com).

In Great Britain the Historic Houses Association organizes several events to celebrate its history and heritage, and the National Trust of Scotland coordinates a series of restoration programmes for volunteers. The Isle of Saint Kilda is a highly successful and unique natural reservation which has UNESCO world heritage status. Every year some twenty volunteers with different types of experience spend time on the island restoring its historical buildings. In the nineteen



fifties the island was bequeathed to the National Trust after its last inhabitants were evacuated (www.nts.org.uk).

Apart from these few examples which combine training in heritage professions with a desire to know more, to exchange ideas and promote a cultural dialogue, the Atelier Vendéen du Patrimoine focuses on another social issue – integration. Teams made up of professionals and individuals on rehabilitation programmes restore and maintain the region’s historic monuments. These mixed teams working on a site enjoy mutually beneficial friendships, while those with social problems learn they too

can contribute. Working under a specific contract, these disadvantaged workers are constantly assisted on site and attend external courses in both building professions and more general top-up education such as literacy and computer skills. When a site is completed 20% of the workers are ready to join the ordinary labour market and 50% continue their rehabilitation in a positive spirit. This would never happen without the continuous backing of the Atelier Vendéen du Patrimoine, and the financial aid of many partners (asso@avep.fr).

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THE ENLARGED EUROPE

“The Common Agricultural Policy – can EU citizens still follow?”

The European Commission seems to be facing a communication problem: with the re-orientation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the EU has set targets which, with regard to their composition and priority-setting, are intended to have a stronger focus towards the interests of citizens in EU Member States. However, even today, there is a common misconception amongst the public, based largely on images that persist from the 1970's and 1980's, that surplus food continues to be produced, dumped and destroyed. Added to this is a lack of knowledge and understanding, among the public, about the CAP and its impact on their lives.

During a panel discussion organised by the European Initiative for Sustainable Development in Agriculture e.V. (EISA) in Hildesheim, Germany, on 4th September 2008, representatives of EISA, the EU Commission, the German Federal Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection and the Farmers Union of Lower Saxony discussed the importance of raising public awareness of the CAP and the challenges this will bring.

“Many EU citizens remain uninformed about EU Policies, what they mean to them and the impact they have on their daily lives. We have a moral obligation to do all we can to improve everyone's understanding of these policies” explained EISA Chairman, Tony WORTH.

“Since the start of the CAP, however, this has not been addressed and we need to take steps to improve this situation,” he continued. As well as covering issues such as nutrition, energy supply, environment and the protection of natural resources, EU policies would encompass a far broader spectrum of issues than before and therefore need to ensure they addressed the multitude of national interests and attitudes of the 27 EU Member States.

Against this background, Dr Martin SCHEELE, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the EU Commission, underlined that emphasis should be on getting acceptance on the CAP objectives. In this context, he said that it would not be achievable to make citizens experts on the details of the CAP and that he didn't believe that this was necessary for getting a wider support. He underlined that the latter is a matter of gaining support for

the objectives and demonstrating our capacity to achieve them.

He said: “Let me put it this way: I do not understand what makes my car function, but I trust that it does its job properly by taking me from one place to another. I live with that – and I have to.” In any case, there would be a need to continuously communicate agricultural policies in the future, Dr SCHEELE said. He emphasised that «sustainability»



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incorporates objectives (economic, social and environmental) that are not necessarily in a harmonious relationship. They are even conflictive. In this context, he mentioned that competition is a necessary ingredient of the economic aspects of sustainability, while generating winners and losers. And he continued to argue that communicating the conflictive nature of those objectives provides for opportunities: "It gives us a strong argument that we need to reach for striking the right balance."

Finally Dr SCHEELE stated that the CAP has to demonstrate, through reforms, its capacity to respond to new challenges and criticism, in order to remain acceptable to society in the long run.

Clemens NEUMANN, Head of the Department Administration/Management at the Federal Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection in Germany, emphasised that EU citizens should be prepared for the challenges in agriculture and the respective consequences of alternative political strategies. "If a consumer requests the abolition of a certain production system in his country, but still wants to buy the produce, he has to realise that the only chance to get the product will be via imports – leaving the value-adding to other countries." In addition, Mr NEUMANN felt that there needed to be more discussion on the individual responsibility of consumers. In this context, he said it should be openly questioned why consumers in some EU countries throw away up to 30 % of the food they buy. Even the figure of 10 % of the food being thrown away in Germany would be far too high when seen against global malnourishment. In a globalised world, he said, the consequences of individual actions needed to be debated.



There was consensus between participants of the panel discussion that an open discussion about agriculture and the Common Agricultural Policy was needed. It was critical that the benefits of agriculture and agricultural policies and the direct and indirect costs associated with any further agricultural developments, were demonstrated to all EU member citizens. "We consider it very important that consumers are made aware of the wider role of farmers, not just as food producers and custodians of the countryside, but as providers of health and well being benefits and their importance in both rural and urban communities", concluded Jörn DWEHUS of the Farmers Union of Lower Saxony.

For more information please contact EISA office.

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EISA, the European Initiative for Sustainable Development in Agriculture, is a European farmers' organisation with 6 national associations (Austria, Germany, France, Luxemburg, Sweden and United Kingdom) for the development and promotion of sustainable development in agriculture and in particular the holistic concept of Integrated Farming as Full Members.

IN BRIEF

The European Crop Protection Association Conference is being organised against a background of change for agriculture and the crop protection industry

We are seeing major changes in agricultural policy linked to increased commodity prices and growing global demand. And at the same time we are looking at substantial changes in the regulatory framework for crop protection. The progress made in the completion of the EU review programme for under Directive 91/414/EEC has led to a reduction in the number of active substances on the market and the next step of product re-registration will require close cooperation between Member States to ensure an efficient process in the re-registration of these products. In parallel, progress is being made in agreeing the Directive on the sustainable use of pesticides and the new Authorisation Regulation that will replace Directive 91/414/EEC. 2008 will also see the full implementation of the MRL Regulation and this will provide a number of new challenges and opportunities.

Against this political backdrop, we are organising a conference (November 14th-15th) to look into the future.

The Conference will consider the evolving needs of European farmers – how they will be able to meet the ever more restrictive standards being required by the food industry with the crop protection solutions that remain for them. What opportunities

are available for farmers and the crop protection industry to work together and take the lead in meeting the needs of our consumers, in terms of quality and the price of our food?

The Directive on the sustainable use of pesticides will also influence the thinking of farmers, the crop protection industry and the wider food industry, and consideration will be given to how the Directive can promote sustainable food production for the future. Industry will also take the opportunity to share experiences and best practices in order to continue to guarantee a quality food supply while also ensuring the safety of the operator and the environment.

The review programme has led to a number of difficulties with industry having lost many active substances that have been key in ensuring adequate crop protection in recent years. The Conference will look ahead and consider what can be learnt from this experience, and will also look at the product re-registration challenges that lie ahead in the next few years.

With the developments in the adoption of the Authorisation Regulation to replace Directive 91/414/EEC, opportunities exist to promote further harmonisation and cooperation. Worksharing and harmonisation will be key for a more predictable future regulatory process and consideration will be given to how industry and regulators can best work together to achieve efficiencies for all parties in the regulatory process. The role of EFSA in particular will be key and we will discuss how EFSA can achieve their goals in parallel to meeting the goals of all stakeholders.

The full application of the MRL Regulation also provides some opportunities for efficiency gains to ensure a rapid and transparent system of MRL setting. The Conference will consider the changes that have been put in place to date, and the further changes that need to be considered to ensure a predictable process for the long-term.

If you wish more information, contact ECPA office:
www.ecpa.org



Primary and secondary agro-technical schools

Good practice can sometimes be found beyond our borders. My experience in Argentina took me to the foot of the Andes, to Junin de los Andes at the beginning of their winter, in June. Since 2002 an organisation has been successfully educating the children of traditional and rural communities who are unable to go to school far from home. The main reason is the considerable distance which separates boarding schools from children. This country of only 40.6 million inhabitants is 4.1 times the size of France.



The “Fundacion Cruzada Patagonica”¹ organisation has attained its objectives by providing quality education to young people and even adults who want to learn more. The organisation also offers services such as mini-loans and support for rural activities within families. The agro-technical primary and secondary schools are interesting examples, since the number of pupils has been increasing ever since they opened. Today there are 230. The idea of these boarding schools is to provide children with the opportunity to go to school closer to home, with full awareness of the main subjects they need to give them the best chance in life. The lessons include all the traditional subjects, from languages to chemistry. A second set of subjects includes technical and practical information about farming and livestock. The focus is on greenhouse

crops because of the harsh climate, and on organic herb gardens and soil analysis. The aim of the organisation is to use the children to take the most recent techniques and knowledge to the communities and their families with the intention of increasing individual productivity and improving their daily lives. A third part includes music lessons and popular dances to preserve the culture, a precious commodity in this country.

It is encouraging to see children happily following the ‘maestro’s’ instructions during educational exercises in producing crops on the pilot farms alongside the schools. Meat, dairy products, honey, fruit alcohol, wool and many other products farmed on a small scale are distributed to the participants and sold for the benefit of the foundation which is mainly supported by

donations from companies, sponsors and the state.

What sets these small landowners apart is their involvement in purely regional markets based on small family holdings. Similar communities exist in Europe in regions where farming and livestock breeding are less industrialized.

My experience as a volunteer gave me an understanding of the impact that providing such opportunities for young people can have on the inhabitants of a region. By giving the next generation a solid education about their environment, they have the chance of attaining a better quality of life which will affect their own families and community, and allow them to continue the activities of their fathers.

In my opinion this organisation has set an example. Similar projects could better prepare young people in the European countryside for future activities such as small-scale family farming.

■ C.L. zu STOLBERG-STOLBERG

¹ www.cruzadapatagonica.org

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Building sustainable cities

Good practice and European financing

Urban sprawl is a subject known to everyone. In 2025, 2/3 of the world's population will live in cities. It is high time we found ways of supporting the development of these cities, which cannot afford to be anything but sustainable.

In this book Jean-Marie BEAUPUY explains the tools available to a city's stakeholders to promote sustainable urban development. He mentions inter alia the challenges of local governance, solutions in the form of good practice and European financing for 2007-2013. He gives many examples to illustrate seven essential subjects such as competitiveness and innovation, population, mobility, housing, urban sprawl, environment and social integration.

This is a real tool box for all the stakeholders in a city, from the citizen to the councillor. The author has thirty years experience in this area and provides practical answers and solutions

appropriate to this highly topical subject. He also proposes that the urban dimension be examined at a European level. He describes the history of the role of cities in the European Union and introduces the different programmes available. He lists "keys to success", a tried-and-tested principle to improve cooperation between the different city stakeholders. This 'local application' highlights the innovative initiatives which are the sort of good practice which Europe's many towns and cities could adopt.

■ Jean-Marie BEAUPUY
Published by Yves Michel



Diary Dates 2008

4 - 5 November, Montpellier (France)

Biodiversity and agriculture: today challenges and tomorrow research for a sustainable agriculture; international conference organised in the framework of the French presidency
<http://www.biodiversite-montpellier.org/>

5 November, Bibliotheque Solvay, Brussels

Saving Europe's Water: its place in the EU's Green Strategy; with the participation of Stavros DIMAS, addressing such issues as Climate Changes, Finance, water scarcity

and droughts, organised by Friends of Europe and EWP
www.friendsofeurope.org

13 November, Brussels

Impacts on local actors, living and working in rural areas? co-organised by ELO in the framework of the "Mouvement Européen pour la Ruralité (MER)" elo@elo.org

27 November, Paris

The impact and evolution of EU PPP legislation - the opportunities & threats with the new legislative frameworks? conference organised by ECPA
www.ecpa.eu

27-28 November, Brussels

The Food and Drink Industry in the 21st Century – Generating Growth, Serving Consumers, Respecting the Environment; congress organised by CIAA
www.ciaacongress2008.eu

28 November, Brussels

How Can Behavioural Economics Improve Policies Affecting Consumers?; conference organised by EC DG Sanco
<http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/events.htm>

2nd -3rd of December, Prague

ELO General Assembly



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