



Transition to a Green Economy ENRD Thematic Group

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Faustine Bas-Defossez

EEB

Zoom on Rural Development and 'environmental measures'

- Video- setting the scene
- 'The truth behind the numbers' work
- The outcomes
- A sample of examples

Video



An alarming state

BIODIVERSITY

- **60%** of protected species and **77%** of habitat types : **unfavourable** conservation status
- **57%** decrease in farmland birds since 1980
- Close look at 10 Member States (CZ, DE, FR, HU, IT, PL, RO, ES, UK, NL) : low level of biodiversity **in 95% of all landscapes**



WATER

90% of river basin districts, **50%** of surface water bodies- **33%** of groundwater bodies affected by pollution from farming

AIR

Over **400,000 early deaths** in the EU every year due to air pollution-
Farming representing **90%** of ammonia – Methane: **40%** of EU agricultural emissions

CLIMATE

10% GHG emissions from farming

...AND THE COSTS on the environment?

Industrialized farming: **3 trillion** of EUR a year in the v
On average **1,5 billion** in France alone



...Obvious decline of natural resources

The Truth behind the numbers

- Many facts being... feedback from
- the ground is di...
- => what is be...

EU	Finland	
Austria	Ireland	
Estonia	Latvia	
Spain (CYL)	IT (F)	Alpes, PACA)

- Expert ana...
- Based on fir...

THE HIDDEN TRUTH
Environmental Impact of New EU Rural Development Programmes

BACKGROUND
One of the overarching aims of CAP reform was to make it deliver more for the environment. To find out what EU Rural Development actually means for the environment, specifically for biodiversity, this factsheet analyses how public money will be really spent and what hides behind the official numbers (EC and national figures). The analysis has been carried out for the EU26 and for 19 regions and Member States.

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT
Agriculture remains one of the main sectors impacting our environment and one of the main threats to biodiversity in the EU – this is an assessment made by the Member States themselves when reporting to the European Commission. According to the EEA State of the Environment report, over 80% of protected extensive grasslands in Natura 2000 sites are in an unfavourable condition.

GREENING
The original idea behind the reform of the CAP post-2013 was to ensure public money was being used to pay for public goods (clean water, healthy soils, and biodiversity). This was translated into good agronomic practices linked with farmers' direct payments and building on these, more ambitious measures for the environment in Rural Development. But as political negotiations got underway this intention rapidly disappeared, leaving us with very weak basic regulations. Now that evidence on the likely failure of greening of Direct Payments delivery is growing it is also time to check whether objectives such as freeing up money for more efficient and targeted measures which benefit the environment and biodiversity are being met or not.

80% OF PROTECTED EXTENSIVE GRASSLANDS IN NATURA 2000 SITES IN UNFAVOURABLE CONDITION

53% DECREASE IN FARMLAND BIRDS SINCE 1980

PAPER VS. PRACTICE
More than a **1/3** of ecosystems spending goes to ANC measures despite the fact that no environmental conditions are attached to these measures.

66% of spending for ecosystems in Finland will go to ANC measures.

RD spending 2014-2020

- Ecosystems 44%
- Social Inclusion 35%
- Competitiveness 20%
- Food chain 7%
- TA & DM 3%
- Resource efficiency 8%

In a 2013 report, the Finnish Ministry of Environment highlighted the perverse effect ANC spending could have on the environment.

The outcomes

- More than a **1/3 of ecosystems** spending goes to ANC measures despite the fact that no environmental conditions are attached to these measures
- In 79% of the cases, the quality of the measures was overstated

(Dark green: the scheme has been considered dark green if it targets specific species (groups of species), habitats or a specific biodiversity problem (e.g. pollinator strips)).

A sample of examples



- **ES - Andalusia**

AE budget going to 'fake' environmental schemes

65% of the AEC budget going to schemes for 'sustainable systems'- integrated pest management – actually providing support for growing certain crops such as *sugar beet, cotton, horticulture, irrigated cereals, olives.*

- **Finland**

AE budget going to 'fake' environmental schemes

Scheme to 'balance the use of nutrients' to which 51% of the AEC budget has been allocated and which involves over 90% of farmers. Its environmental delivery on the ground has been questioned because the measures are undemanding and mostly of a desk-type

A sample of examples



- Cyprus

AE budget going to fake 'environmental' schemes
Continuation of environmentally-friendly practices
for banana growing' scheme has premium
800EUR/ha.

**Very well-funded measure, which however has
rather weak stipulations/requirements. No
stipulation banning herbicide use**

A sample of examples



- NL

Targeted approach to the design of AECM

- Spain

AECM targeting HNV and biodiversity

Madrid has decided to include AECM only targeted to the main Natura 2000 agrosystems within the region: extensive livestock in the mountainous areas and management of cereal steppes in lowlands.

For the design of commitments and monitoring it has taken into account the results and expertise from key projects and previous work of different organizations, in order to guarantee the success in terms of uptaking and biodiversity results.

Conclusions

- Not everything claimed 'green' is actually green (business as usual-greenwashing)
- Green economy has to be 'truly' green- no sustainability without that
- Most needed: Holistic approach- assessment of the environmental needs and good targeting

Sources

[“EU agricultural reform fails on biodiversity”](#) Pe’er et al., June 2014,
Science magazine

EEB and BirdLife factsheets: The truth behind the new CAP in: [the](#)
[EU](#), [FRANCE](#), [SPAIN](#),
[ITALY](#), [LATVIA](#), [GERMANY](#),[LITHUANIA](#), [UK](#), [ROMANIA](#) 2013

[IEEP analysis on the state of implementation of the CAP in 9 different](#)
[Member States](#)

[LISA study done by IFAB](#) (Institute for biodiversity and agriculture)

EEB and BirdLife [analysis of 19 rural development programmes](#) and
their delivery for biodiversity