

**PURPLE-conference, organised by Randstad Region
26 May 2010, The Hague/Scheveningen, the Netherlands**

Title: 'Fostering bio diversity and sustainable water management in peri-urban region, a new CAP to face new challenges'

Themes: biodiversity & sustainable water management

Introduction conference

As part of the 2008 Health Check of the CAP, additional funds have become available for the national Rural Development Programmes through the progressive increase of the application of the modulation instrument to direct payments. A major part of these additional funds have been designated to support actions aimed at what are called the new challenges: bio diversity, climate change, water management and renewable energy.

It is proposed to limit the scope of the conference to two of the new challenges, namely bio diversity and water management. Bio diversity is an obvious choice, partly because 2010 marks the European Year of bio diversity and secondly because a lot of other relevant issues are directly connected to bio diversity: climate change, water management, changes in land use, changes in agricultural production technology, environmental issues, etc.

Water management is a theme that is of course close to the hearts and minds of the Randstad region, as the area is characterised by its more than 1,000 years of love-hate relationship with water. But, as previous PURPLE conferences have shown, water is also an extremely important issue for most other PURPLE members, albeit manifesting itself in different forms and intensities.

The following questions lay at the basis of the content of this PURPLE conference: Will the current shift from direct farmers' support to broader rural development issues, notably the new challenges, be continued and enhanced? Should these issues remain within the domain of the CAP or be integrated with other European, national and regional policies? What, in the light of the subsidiarity principle, is the appropriate level of public intervention to develop and implement these policies? What is the most effective style of governance and what instruments are needed to effectuate policy objectives, taking into account the existing diversity throughout Europe and among PURPLE members? What can PURPLE and its members contribute to the debate from a peri-urban perspective? What can PURPLE and its members themselves contribute to the solution of the new challenges?

Programme

13.00-13.30 Registration
13.30-15.00 Welcome participants and keynote speakers
15.00-15.30 Coffee break
15.30-16.30 Round table discussion 1
16.30-17.30 Round table discussion 2
17.30-18.00 Closing
18.00-19.00 Cocktail

Moderator of the day will be Jacki Davis.

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