



The aim of the Conference is to present the changes which took place in the agriculture and rural areas in the five years since Poland's accession to the EU. There will be also discussed the challenges facing European agriculture and rural areas in the context of the ongoing public debate on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy of the EU. The organisers hope that the Conference will contribute to this debate.

### **DAY 1 | TUESDAY 28 APRIL 2009**

The first day of the conference is planned to be an exchange between public stakeholders. It will be opened with a plenary session and followed with three parallel focused discussions.

Introduction to the discussion will be delivered by academics. They will consider the consequences of the enlargement of the European Union and the present challenges facing the agricultural sector and the rural development policy in the context of a future Common Agricultural Policy.

The plenary session aims to present the effects of membership in EU-12. It will also consider the contribution of EU-12 to agriculture and the agriculture policy in the EU.

In addition this session will address the similarities and differences among new member states in terms of EU membership effects. These differences might be due to the diverse structure of agricultural sectors in Member States, and to differing macroeconomic conditions. In this context, a wide range of solutions adopted by different countries under the CAP is also of significance.

### **PANEL 1 | MULTIFUNCTIONALITY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AREAS IN AN ENLARGED EUROPEAN UNION**

The time when European Union's agriculture was perceived solely as a producer of agricultural raw materials is long past. At present, the Community increasingly appreciates the importance of agriculture and rural areas to achieve a number of other public goals of regional, cross-border or even global importance. Multifunctionality of farming and rural areas has been strengthened in the recent CAP reforms, from Agenda 2000 to the CAP Review of 2008. The Review has pointed out new challenges, connected, amongst others, with climate change, water management and biological diversity and entering them into a catalogue of tasks set for this Community policy.

Due to the specific structure of the agricultural sector and its still significant share in employment in most of the new member states, the Common Agricultural Policy has a strong impact on the social process, strengthening in this way the territorial cohesion of regions, states and the whole Community. This is especially important, because agricultural and rural areas cover about 90% of the EU area. They are not only the space for agricultural production, but also the place where a large part of the EU population lives – and as a consequence an area influenced by several Community policies.

The first panel will address the question of the contribution of the new member states to the European model of agriculture, as well as the influence of the CAP on multi-functionality of agriculture and rural areas in EU-12. In this context, one should remember that EU's enlargement

has considerably increased the share of small holdings in the European agriculture. During the session, one of the speakers will discuss the coexistence of different models of agriculture in the European Union, with a particular emphasis on the role of small agricultural holdings.

Due to a high share of traditional and ecologically-balanced production methods, the EU-12 countries can offer Europe a lot of environmental values. The preservation of these values becomes especially important in the context of strong incentives towards the intensification in agricultural production. The influence of membership in the EU on conservation of the ecological values of the Polish countryside and agriculture will be one of the topics in this panel.

Rural areas also play an important role in achieving many strategic objectives set for the Community including territorial cohesion and the Lisbon Strategy's goals. The Common Agricultural Policy is the most important Community policy which supports rural areas but not the only one. This session will illustrate the ways in which other Community policies can contribute to the development of these areas.

The CAP reforms have extended the scope of instruments for rural areas. The 2005 reform of the II<sup>nd</sup> pillar of CAP reinforced the importance of a grass roots partnership in the rural development by including the Leader initiative in the rural development programs (Axis IV). Moreover, the reform established a legal framework for functioning of the Rural Area Network, which provides additionally the possibilities for cooperation and sharing experience among all involved stakeholders. This session will present Poland's experience in building a civil society in rural areas. It will also try to answer to the question whether the EU-12 membership changed the social attitudes of the rural inhabitants, and what is the role of local leaders in this respect.

## **PANEL 2 | CHALLENGES FACING AGRI-FOOD SECTOR IN A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY**

The recent dynamic changes of the economic conditions under which agricultural and food sector operates have lead to an increased uncertainty and low predictability. It has also enforced the acceleration of adjustment processes. During the years 2006-2008 prices of agricultural products were very high, which encouraged new investment. From the second half of 2008 a rapid decrease of those prices was observed. In addition, the negative consequences of the global financial crisis has aversely affected agriculture by decreasing import demand and limiting access to credit. This experience undermined the reliability of economic forecasts and revealed strong links between European agriculture and the global economy.

During the session, the participants will discuss the challenges facing agri-food sector in the time of uncertainty. The first presentation will concern the influence of the present financial crisis on the EU agriculture and policies. This crisis, in conjunction with the agricultural negotiations within the WTO represents an important context for a debate on the shape of further reforms of agricultural policy. The session will present the EU's perspective on the liberalization of world agricultural trade.

Despite the present disturbances of agricultural market, available long-term prognoses indicate the tendency for growth in demand, resulting from further increase in the global population and changes in consumption patterns. As a consequence, the global demand for agricultural raw materials can be expected to double by the year 2050. In the short term, expectations with regard to the contribution of agriculture to energy and climatic security will grow as well. Such a scenario involves many challenges for the EU agriculture and agricultural policy. Europe will not only have to produce more agricultural raw materials, but also produce them in such a way to secure both the European and global natural environment. In this context, one of speakers will try to tackle the question concerning the impact of the global increase in demand for agricultural raw materials on sustainable development of the European agriculture.

These changes provide not only an important challenge, but they can also be an opportunity for EU-27 agriculture. The agriculture of new member states has clashed with the present crisis shortly after the accession adjustments to the EU. This brings up the question about the strengths and the weaknesses of EU-12 agriculture, and the role of the experience gathered during the transformation period.

### **PANEL 3 | THE EUROPEAN UNION OF TWO SPEEDS? - POST-ACCESSION EXPERIENCE**

The integration process in the area of agriculture was a challenge due to differences in agricultural policy between EU-15 and EU-12, as well as due to the scope of legislation that had to be adopted by new member states. Particularly strong emotions were associated with the process of accession negotiations in the agricultural area. This ended with the adopting of transition periods for several elements including direct payments. The negotiation period was also characterized by dissonance between public opinions in the old and the new member states on the expected market effects of the integration.

The first years of membership set the responsibility for EU co-decision for new member states including the reforms of EU policies. After these five years it is appropriate to ask difficult questions regarding the role of the Common Agricultural Policy in the process of European integration, including the following:

- Has the process of integration in this area been completed?
- Do the differences between EU-15 and EU-12 still influence the decision processes in the EU, and if so, then in what way?
- Do the post-accession experiences leave room for Euro-scepticism?
- Will the future reforms in the Community policies: changes in the Treaty, budget, CAP, cohesion policy - unite the EU or will lead to a Union of two-speed?

One of the speakers will discuss these issues with reference to the debate carried out in the European Parliament.

The European integration and functioning of the single market requires ongoing Community initiative. One of the presentations will be devoted to the role of the Common Agricultural Policy in supporting those processes. It will also answer the question if the single market and the European integration may exist without a common agricultural policy based on solidarity principles.

The discussion on the future CAP is closely connected with discussion on the future EU budget and other Community policies. This issue will be presented by one of the speakers.

The attitudes of the Polish rural inhabitants towards the European integration have changed since accession. One can observe that a group which was relatively strongly Euro-sceptic before the accession is now favourable towards the EU.. This issue will be discussed in the last presentation.

### **DAY 2 | WEDNESDAY, 29 APRIL 2009**

The second day of the conference will be of a political orientation. The decision-making process at Community level requires not only analytical support but also more importantly political agreement from the 27 Member States.

The debate will include speeches by the representatives of the European Union institutions, which play a leading role in shaping a Common Agricultural Policy, including the Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Ms. Mariann Fischer Boel, representative of the Czech Presidency – Secretary of State in the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic Mr. Ivo Hlaváč, and

Chairman of the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Parliament Mr. Neil Parish.

During the session, speeches will also be delivered by active participants in Poland's accession to the EU in the area of agriculture and rural development, including Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Poland at the time of Poland's accession to the EU in 2004 Mr. Jarosław Kalinowski, Poland's chief negotiator in the area of agriculture Mr. Jerzy Plewa, and Secretary of the Committee for European Integration Mr. Mikołaj Dowgielewicz.

The academic perspective will be provided with a presentation of Professor Stefan Tangermann – Director of the OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate in the years 2002-2008 and a presentation of Professor Andrzej Kowalski – Director of the Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics who will summarize the first Conference day.

The second day of the Conference will also inaugurate the National Rural Network in Poland. Mr. John Loughheed, Head of Unit 3G at the European Commission, will give a presentation on the significance of the European Rural Development Networks.

The Conference will be followed by a meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Visegrád Group, Bulgaria, and Romania.



## DAY 1 | TUESDAY 28 APRIL 2009

09.00 Registration

10.00 Welcoming Address | **Marek Sawicki, Ph.D.**, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Poland

### **PART 1 FIVE YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE EU FROM DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES | PLENARY SESSION**

10.20 Polish membership in the EU - the most important effects for the agri-food sector | **prof. Andrzej Kowalski**, Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics - National Research Institute, Poland

10.40 Changes in the Polish rural areas 5 years after accession | **prof. Maria Halamska**, Institute of Rural and Agricultural Development, Polish Academy of Science

11.00 The diversity of effects of the EU membership in agriculture in New Member States | **prof. Csaba Csaki**, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary

11.20 What have EU-12 contributed to agriculture and agricultural policy of the European Union? | **prof. Johan Swinnen**, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

11.45 – 12.30 Coffee break

### **PART 2 THE CONDITION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AREAS IN POLAND AND IN THE EUROPEAN UNION | PANEL SESSIONS**

12.30 – 14.45 Panel session | presentations 12 -15 min | discussion

#### **PANEL 1 MULTIFUNCTIONALITY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AREAS IN AN ENLARGED EUROPEAN UNION | moderator - prof. Jerzy Wilkin, Warsaw University**

The role of the Community policies in rural development | **Władysław Piskorz, Ph.D.**, Directorate General for Regional Policy, European Commission

Coexistence of different agricultural models in the European Union – the role of small-scale farms | **Cosmin Salasan, Ph.D.**, Banat University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Timisoara, Romania

Has EU membership affected environmental assets of rural areas in Poland? | **Tomasz Stuczyński, Ph.D.**, Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation, National Research Institute, Poland

Has Poland's membership in the EU influenced on the activity of rural community? | **Urszula Budzich – Szukała**, The Polish Rural Forum – FAOW

**PANEL 2 CHALLENGES FACING AGRI-FOOD SECTOR IN A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY**

| **moderator Roger Waite**, AgraFacts, Brussels

What is the impact of the global financial crisis on agriculture and EU Policies?

| **prof. David Harvey**, School of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, New Castle University

Agriculture trade liberalization – the EU perspective | **Jerzy Plewa, Ph.D.**, Directorate General Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission

Is the increase in global food demand a threat to the sustainable development of European agriculture? | **David Baldock**, Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP), London

Can the experience of transformation and accession be helpful for New Member States in a time of uncertainty? Strengths and weaknesses of EU-12 agriculture

| **prof. Ewa Rabinowicz**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Uppsala

**PANEL 3 THE EUROPEAN UNION OF TWO SPEEDS? - POST-ACCESSION EXPERIENCE**

| **moderator Zofia Krzyżanowska, Ph.D.**, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Poland

The enlarged European Union in the EU Parliament's debate | **Czesław Siekierski, Ph.D.**, Member of European Parliament

Is the Single Market and European integration possible without the CAP based on solidarity? | **Andris Miglavs, Ph.D.**, Institute of Agrarian Economics of Latvia

The future of the CAP in the context of changes in the budget and other European policies | **Jarosław Pietras, Ph.D.**, General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union

Changes in attitudes of rural inhabitants towards the European Union | **Barbara Fedyszak – Radziejowska, Ph.D.**, Institute of Rural and Agricultural Development, Polish Academy of Science

14.45 – 15.45 Lunch break

**PART 3. SUMMARY | PLENARY SESSION**

15.45 Summary of Panel 1 | **prof. Jerzy Wilkin**

15.55 Summary of Panel 2 | **Roger Waite**

16.05 Summary of Panel 3 | **Zofia Krzyżanowska, Ph.D.**

16.15 Discussion and conclusions

17.00 Summing up and closing the conference

**DAY 2 | WEDNESDAY, 29 APRIL 2009**

- 10.00 Registration
- 11.00 Welcoming Address | **Marek Sawicki, Ph.D.**, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Poland
- EU EASTERN ENLARGEMENT – CURRENT PERSPECTIVES | CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY | PLENARY SESSION**
- 11.15 Perspective of the European Commission | **Mariann Fischer – Boel**, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development
- 11.30 Perspective of the Czech Presidency | **Ivo Hlaváč**, 1st Deputy Minister of the Minister of Agriculture of the Czech Republic
- 11.45 Perspective of the EU Parliament | **Neil Parish**, Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Parliament
- 12.00 Polish perspective | **Jarosław Kalinowski**, Vicemarshal of Sejm of the Republic of Poland (Polish Parliament)
- 12.15 – 12.45 Coffee break
- 12.45 Experiences and challenges in agricultural sector - EU perspective | **Jerzy Plewa, Ph.D.**, Deputy Director – General, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission
- 13.00 The role of a common policy in the integration process - contribution of the CAP and its future capacity | **Mikołaj Dowgielewicz**, Secretary of the Committee for European Integration
- 13.15 EU Eastern Enlargement from the perspective of the agricultural policy reform | **prof. Stefan Tangermann**, Director for Trade and Agriculture Directorate in the years 2002-2008, OECD
- 13.30 The Role of the European Rural Network in the process of rural areas and agriculture development | **John Loughheed**, Head of Unit G3 ( European Network and Monitoring of Rural Development Policy), Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission
- 13.45 Conclusions from the first day of the conference | **prof. Andrzej Kowalski**, Director for the Polish Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics - National Research Institute
- 14.00 – 14.30 Question time and discussion
- 14.30 Summing up and closing the conference | **Marek Sawicki, Ph.D.**, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Poland