

AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES IN WALLONIA: SITUATION AND PERSPECTIVES

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During the first half of the implementation of Agenda 2000, the period 2000-2003, agri-environmental measures were not very successfully in Belgium and in Wallonia, its Southern and French-speaking part (as this matter is regionalised). The reason is probably that Belgian agriculture is capital-intensive, with high yields.

Rural development measures, the "second pillar" of the CAP, were less implemented than in the EU as mean, agri-environmental measures represented a smaller part in the rural development budget, and the share of the total agricultural area concerned was also lower.

In 2003 (MTR), the EU decided: -to simplify the administration of AEM

-to increase the concerned areas

-to improve the targeting of AEM (location).

In Wallonia, new regulations were adopted at the end of 2004 and are implemented since 2005.

The success was rapid: - 43 % of Wallonian farmers use at least one AEM

-Wallonia now reaches the EU mean (AEM = 45 % of the second pillar budget).

Farmers get subsidies if they sign a five-year commitment to implement methods which go further than conditionality and good agricultural practices. The subsidies cover additional costs and income losses.

In Wallonia, 10 AEM are available, and their objectives are:

- to protect surface waters, underground waters, soils and air
- to preserve and improve rural landscapes,
- to preserve agricultural animal and vegetal resources.

This paper presents the answers proposed by the AEM in order to reach the objectives and discusses the recent results obtained, their level of adoption.

It appears that AEM are now much more popular among farmers, for whom information and education are important, and that AEM really have a positive impact on the environment.

The 2007-2013 Wallonian Rural Development Plan is not yet approved by the European Commission, but AEM are of course important and similar to that of the preceding period.

THE EXPLOITATIONS OF OIL FROM THE PANNONIAN FIELDS OF SUPLACU DE BARCAU, AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMICAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT

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The exploitation of the oil in Romania has a tradition of 150 years, Romania being one of the first countries who start the oil production, beginning with 1957.