

Rural Development Policies: A Chance for Turkey during the EU Accession Process?

PROGRAMME

13.00-13.15 Opening

Claude Weinber, director EU Regional Office Brussels, Heinrich Böll Foundation

Dr. Ulrike Dufner, director Turkey office Istanbul, Heinrich Böll Foundation

13.15-14.30 Turkey's past experiences with rural development and the necessary reforms to implement the European Union's rural development policies

Moderator: Dr. Ulrike Dufner

Speakers: Prof. Huricihan Islamoglu, Bosphorus University, Istanbul

Christine Rosenow, DG AGRI, European Commission, Programme SAPARD

Discussion

14.30-15.45 Advantages and disadvantages for Turkey to implement the European Union's rural development policy

Moderator: Hannes Lorenzen, advisor Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, Greens/European Parliament

Speakers: Victor Ananias, Bugday (Wheat) Association/Istanbul

Dr. Mahmut Tekce, Marmara University/Istanbul, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Brussels

Discussion

15.45-16.00 Coffee break

16.00-17.30 How should the European Union's rural development policies evolve?

Moderator: Dr. Ulrike Dufner

Speakers: Prof. A. Halis Akder, Middle East Technical University, Ankara

Hannes Lorenzen, advisor Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, Greens/European Parliament

Discussion

17.30 Closing

Dr. Ulrike Dufner/ Claude Weinber

Curriculum Vitae

Prof. Dr. Huricihan Islamoglu

Huricihan Islamoglu was born in 1947 in Istanbul. She graduated from Chicago University in 1967, her major was economy. She obtained her master degree in economic history from Wisconsin University in 1971. Ms. Islamoglu completed her PhD degree at the History Department of the same university in 1979. From 1975 to 1999 she worked at the Middle East Technical University/Ankara and from 1999 to 2001 she was professor for economic history and economic theory at the Sabanci University/Istanbul. Since 2001 she has been lecturing at the Bosphorus University and the Budapest Central European University. She also works for the Politics of Institutions Project in the Fellow Collegium Budapest. Professor Islamoglu is currently leading a project funded by TUBITAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey) on the transformation of Turkish agriculture in relation to reform legislation affected by the EU integration process.

Victor Ananias Süngütay

Victor Ananias Süngütay, son of a Chilean father and Turkish mother, was born in Zurich in 1971. He founded Başak, the first natural product shops of Turkey in 1990 in Bodrum. Afterwards he established Buğday, a vegetarian restaurant and ecological life centre. He started publishing the Buğday Bulletin in 1997 through which he aimed to share information about different countries. In 1999, the Buğday Bulletin was developed into Turkey's first and only ecological life magazine. Furthermore, Victor Ananias built up the Nuhun Ambarı organic products' shop and restaurant of the Foundation to Protect Natural Life in Turkey and worked as an adviser in many similar projects. He has also supported non-governmental organisations in that field. He is the chairman and one of the founders of Buğday Association where he has worked full-time since 2002.

Prof. Dr. A. Halis Akder

A. Halis Akder was born in 1946 in Istanbul. He graduated from Middle East Technical University in 1970 (Economics and Statistics). He then studied at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University and wrote a thesis on "Mechanisation Problems of Turkish Agriculture". He got his professor title in 1992. He works at the Middle East Technical University and teaches advanced microeconomics, intermediate microeconomic theory, advanced and intermediate agricultural economics, agricultural trade policies, common agricultural policy and industrial organisation.

Background

There is an urgent need to reform the agricultural policy and the political, social and economic structure in the rural areas of Turkey during the accession period. However, not only Turkey will have to reform its agricultural and rural development strategy. This is also true for the European Union itself. Therefore, Turkey will have to ask itself: "What kind of reforms in the structural, agricultural and rural development policies of the European Union would be advantageous for Turkey?" Of course, the question arises also, if Turkey has to consider the EU's agricultural policy as unchangeable and what, in that case, would be the advantages/disadvantages for Turkey.

On the other hand, the European Union's rural development policies can in any case become a chance for Turkey, as rural development policy is to be considered an integrative approach which encompasses the role of agriculture; the environment; the quality of products; human resources; employment; life conditions etc., both individually and as a whole. The transformation of Turkey's agricultural policy in this direction could be a big chance for Turkey.

Contrary to this positive image, Turkey will be confronted with many problems during the implementation of the European Union's rural development policies. First of all, the relevant institutions in Turkey lack the necessary knowledge and data about

the European Union policies. Moreover, the approach of the European Union concerning rural development is not known and not experienced in Turkey at all. Therefore, there is a lack of information and experience concerning the way to implement these “new” policies. Finally, communication with the public about possible changes and developments is not provided in Turkey.

Objectives of the meeting

- To provide a mutual exchange of ideas and information between experts from Turkey and the European Union on the EU’s rural development policies,
- To contribute to the clarification of future rural development policies in Turkey with a view to both, its structural problems and the European Union’s rural development policies,
- To contribute to define Turkey’s own stand and demands based on the information gathered on Turkey’s advantages and disadvantages regarding the European Union’s rural development policies.