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International Symposium

**ENLARGEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
AND THE AGRICULTURE OF THE CENTRAL
AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES**

Gembloux, 9-11 March 2010

Organized by:

Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech in partnership with the Walloon Center for Agricultural Research (CRA-W), at the initiative of Professor Philippe Burny (Department of Economics and Rural Development, member of CRA-W)

Enlargissement de l'Union Européenne et Agriculture des pays d'Europe Centrale et Orientale

Conférence organisée par:

Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech en partenariat avec le Centre Wallon de Recherches Agronomiques (CRA-W), à l'initiative de Monsieur le Professeur Philippe Burny (l'Unité d' Economie et de Développement Rural, attaché au sein du CRA-W)



AAB BIOFLUX

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "European Enlargement and Agriculture in Central and East- European Countries"

Philippe Burny

The European Economic Community was born in 1957 with the signature of the Treaty of Rome. Six States were the founders: France, which had taken the initiative with Robert Schuman's declaration (he was Minister of foreign Affairs), the Federal Republic of Germany (former Western Germany), Italy and the Benelux members: Belgium, Netherlands and Luxemburg.

The EEC was built on one common policy: the agricultural policy, which thoroughly oriented the evolution of our agriculture. The implementation of a policy really common to six Member States, in a field as diversified as agriculture (the "internal disparity" phenomenon), was really in itself a great success.

But today, the EEC has become the "European Union", in order to give it a more political orientation, and the number of Member States reaches no less than twenty-seven, after several enlargements, notably toward Central and East-European Countries, after the fall of the Berlin wall. And it is not the end: several candidates, and not the smallest ones, are knocking on the door...

The EU membership has of course as a consequence, for the new Member States, the implementation of the "acquis communautaire", including the CAP, which is still today a very important part of it (around 40% of the budget and thousands of legislative pages).

Which is the situation of agriculture in given new member States and in some potential future member States? What is the evolution of their agricultural economy? What are the main problems they have to face and what are their expectations about the EU? How do they see the future? Here are the questions to which the contributors to the conference try to find answers.

The speakers are colleagues from universities with which a fruitful cooperation has been established since many years, and sometimes even before the fall of the wall. They come from Greece (which became a Member of the EEC in 1981), Poland (2004), Czech Republic (2004), Romania (2007), but also from Serbia (which should become a Member State within a few years) and Russia (which is an important trade partner and has now a border with the EU). Each speaker will deal with the particular case of his country: this fact will allow comparisons of experiences. And for our Belgian federal Minister for Agriculture, she will discuss the challenges of the future CAP and will present the Belgian point of view about it.

The conference benefits from the financial support of the EU Programme Erasmus, the supporting fund for internationalisation (University of Liege / Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech), the doctoral school in agronomy and biological engineering and the doctoral school for development studies.

The conference is officially organized among the activities celebrating the 150 years of the creation, in 1860, of the "institut agricole de Gembloux", now "Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech" within the University of Liege (Belgium).

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Contact Publisher. SC Bioflux SRL, 54 Ceahlău Street, Cluj-Napoca, 400488, Romania, European Union.

Ioan Valentin Petrescu-Mag, e-mail: zoobiomag2004@yahoo.com

Ruxandra Mălina Petrescu-Mag, e-mail: pmalina2000@yahoo.com

Negrea Bogdan Mihai, e-mail: bogdannm@yahoo.com

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2010 marks 100 years of CABI. Since its beginnings as an entomological committee in 1910, it then developed into a Commonwealth organization before becoming a truly international service in agricultural information, pest identification and biological control in the mid 1980s.



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