Dynamix Webinar, 28/10/2015: Results from the resource efficiency policy mix assessment: grand challenges for implementation

Results and implications of the Land Use policy mix – Martin Nesbit, IEEP
CONCEPTUAL BASIS FOR THE LAND USE MIX

- Agricultural products are inter-traded. European consumption and production of food both have impacts beyond Europe’s borders;
- Increased efficiency of production in the EU leads to a reduced land requirement to meet a given level of (global) consumption;
- Production efficiency should include environmental impacts;
- Greater efficiency of consumption (in meeting nutritional needs) also reduces the land requirement;
- Efficient consumption includes reducing food waste, and reducing the environmental footprint of the food we consume;
- Europe needs policies which (i) improve environmental efficiency of production; (ii) improve environmental efficiency of food consumption.
- The use of land for non-food purposes also matters!
**BACKGROUND: TRADE BALANCES**

The graph illustrates trade balances over the years 2004 to 2011, with data in million Euro. The categories include commodities, other primary, processed, food preparations, and beverages. The source of the data is COMEXT.

- **Non-edible products**: Non-food and non-feed products (tobacco and cigarettes, raw hides and skins, cotton and other fibres, and ornamental flowers).
- **Beverages**: Spirits, waters, soft drinks and beers.
- **Food preparations**: Multi-ingredient products, the agricultural component of which represents only a small part of the final value (confectioneries, chocolate, pasta, biscuits, infant food).
- **Agricultural processed products incl. wine**: Wine, cheese, olive oil, processed fruits and vegetables.
- **Other primary agricultural products**: Meat, fruit and vegetables.
- **Commodities**: Highly standardized products, mostly traded in bulk (cereals, vegetable oils, milk powders, cocoa, coffee beans).

**Source**: European Commission
THE POLICY MIX: CONSUMPTION

- A targeted information campaign on changing diets, and on reducing food waste;
- The development of food redistribution programmes; and
- VAT on meat products.

And supporting measures, including:
- Using public canteens to present messages
- Better labelling on dietary recommendations, and on “best before” dates
- Improved retail food storage expertise
THE POLICY MIX: PRODUCTION

• A stronger/more effective environmental dimension to the Common Agricultural Policy
• Regulation to address nitrogen emissions (tighter national targets for air emissions, and rules for better management of the nitrogen cycle on farms)
• Promote “payments for ecosystem services”
• Targets for net carbon emissions from land and forests
• Stronger pesticide reduction targets, better advice to farmers
A number of supporting measures on water use, soil, biodiversity protection, and research
SOME IMPLICATIONS OF THE POLICY MIX

- We need a clearer picture of the overall impact of Europe’s consumption and production in relation to agricultural land;
- In particular, it would be valuable to develop an indicator of Europe’s net land use impact (land use impact of EU consumption, less land use impact of EU production);
- Agricultural trade data needs to reflect environmental impacts, not just the monetary value of traded goods;
- This is not an area for technical solutions (although they can help); it needs broader societal, cultural change, which governments may find it difficult to lead.
THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

• For further information, see the Policy Mix report on the Dynamix website:

• http://dynamix-project.eu/development-dynamix-policy-mixes