Greening the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The Analysis of Development

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Environmental policy is now a pilot policy of the European Union (EU). Section 11 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), confirms that environmental protection requirements must be integrated into the definition and implementation of the Union policies and activities, in particular with a view to promote sustainable development. This ability is of dual nature. On one hand, this is one of shared competences of the European Union (Article 4 of the TFEU), as CAP or the energy policy; the definition is broad and imprecise, which ensures the legislator can extend his competence, at will. On the other hand, it is a transferable skill. In other words, any implemented policy must take into account the environmental factor.

Member States are required to integrate the environment and not just to consider it. Therefore, the objective of this paper is to highlight the interactions between the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the environmental policy. Since the first regulation in 1985, which allowed the introduction of schemes that aimed to protect habitats and agricultural landscapes, up to the ecological areas of interest in 2013, passing through agri-environment measures, during the first major MacSharry reform in 1992, it will be necessary, initially, to analyze how the environment, along with its reforms, came to interfere with CAP. In a second step, we will partially analyze environmental measures in the Commission proposals for the 2013 reform.