

FOOD QUALITY CERTIFICATION

Adding Value to Farm Produce

BRUSSELS • 5-6 FEBRUARY 2007



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Agriculture and Rural Development



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Rapporteur Workshop 2

Workshop 2 - Food Quality Schemes in the EU

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Scope of workshop 2:

- *How do different types of certification schemes meet EU policy challenges?*

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Types of schemes

- « business » & « consumer » schemes
- Differentiation & Quality assurance schemes
- 386 schemes (figure questioned), 711 PDO-PGI (non-wines)
- Number of schemes not an issue; overlap of schemes is an issue

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Competition & internal market

Problems result from...

- Abuse of market power to limit supply
- Collusion among competitors to limit supply
- If certification services are not available across borders
- If intent and effect of scheme is to restrict market

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Situation faced by EU farmers

- Imports may not reach EU production standards
- Certification label to inform consumers is an option
- But, certification costs are high for small producers;
- Duplicating audits (8 checks on one farm 2005)

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Stakeholders' recommendations

- Where schemes overlap, rationalise by benchmarking / mutual recognition;
- Improve transparency
- Improve the inventory

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Conclusions for quality assurance schemes

- Skeptical of how an EU scheme or logo would work
- Consider establishment of « EU guideline » or framework:
 - EU standards;
 - Competition rules, internal market needs & labelling
 - WTO conformity
- Promote benchmarking of schemes with a view to increasing mutual recognition
- Respect principle of simplification by avoiding new regulation

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