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University
of Ljubljana
Faculty
of Social Sciences

**Jean Monnet Module *EU Environmental Policy:
Internal and External Dimensions (EU ENVI)***

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT FORMER MEMBERS ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION DES ANCIENS DEPUTES AU PARLEMENT EUROPEEN



INVITATION to a round table *Mainstreaming environment in EU policies*

*Wednesday, 9 May 2018,
from 10.00 to 12.00*
FDV Grand Hall (*Velika dvorana FDV*)

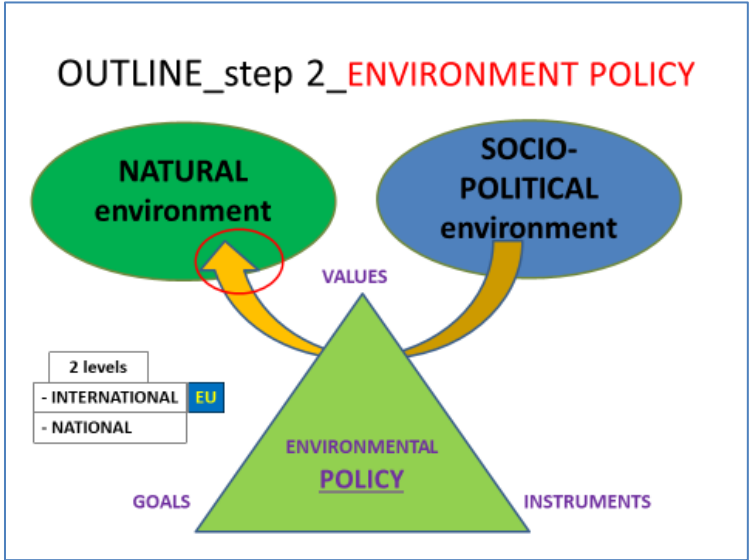
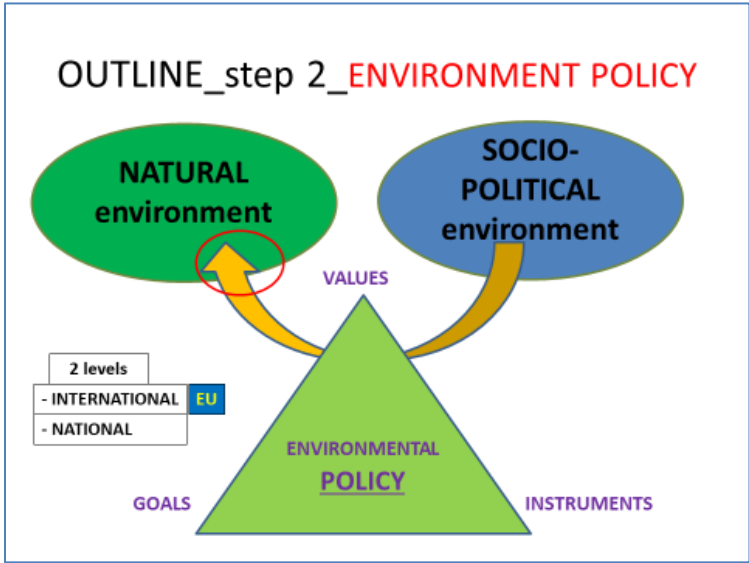
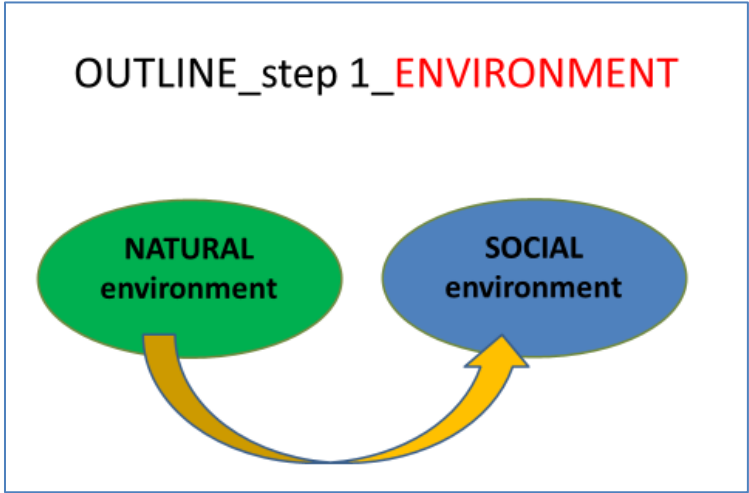
In the context of Europe Week celebrations at the Faculty of Social Sciences, the holder of Jean Monnet Module EU ENVI, assoc. prof. dr. Ana Bojinović Fenko, organizes a round table on the role of environment protection mainstreamed through various EU policies. The purpose of the event is to address most recent developments in the field: tackling climate change challenges, surpassing trade-off between sustainable development and global competitiveness, circular economy and keeping the low policy environment issue on the agenda during intra-EU institutional remake. The Round Table speakers are:

- **assoc. prof. dr. Marko Lovec**, researcher at UNI LJ Centre of International Relations in International Political Economy of EU Common Agricultural Policy,
- **Dr Per Gahrton**, a former MEP and Member of the ENVI Committee of the European Parliament and a Swedish MP of the Greens
- **Mr Uroš Vajgl**, Minister Plenipotentiary at the Sector for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid at the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and former Deputy Permanent Representative of Republic of Slovenia to the EU
- **Ms Cvetka Poprask**, LLM in International Environmental Law and Law of the Sea, Alumni of UL FDV, IR graduate

The interdisciplinary nature of the event welcomes students from different faculties of the University of Ljubljana, especially from the Biotechnical field, Economics, Environmental and European Law, Sociology, Political Sciences, International Relations and European Studies.

NOTES

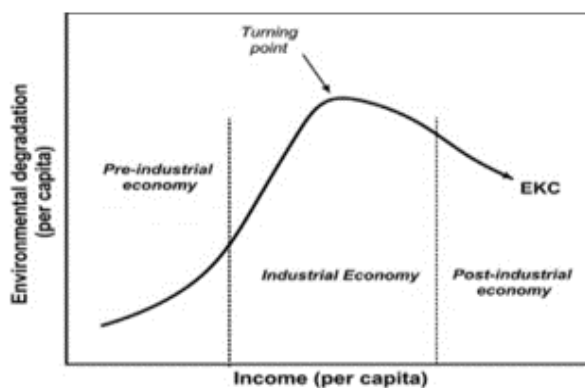
As a means of introduction, Assoc. prof. dr. Ana Bojinović Fenko introduced the concept of Environment, Environment Policy and EU Environmental policy.



Outline

- Economic growth and environment
- Role of the EU and the case of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)
- Slovenia

Growth vs. environment?



- As we become wealthier we tend to appreciate environment more ... (which implies there is some trade-off)

International limits to growth-led adaptation and policy response

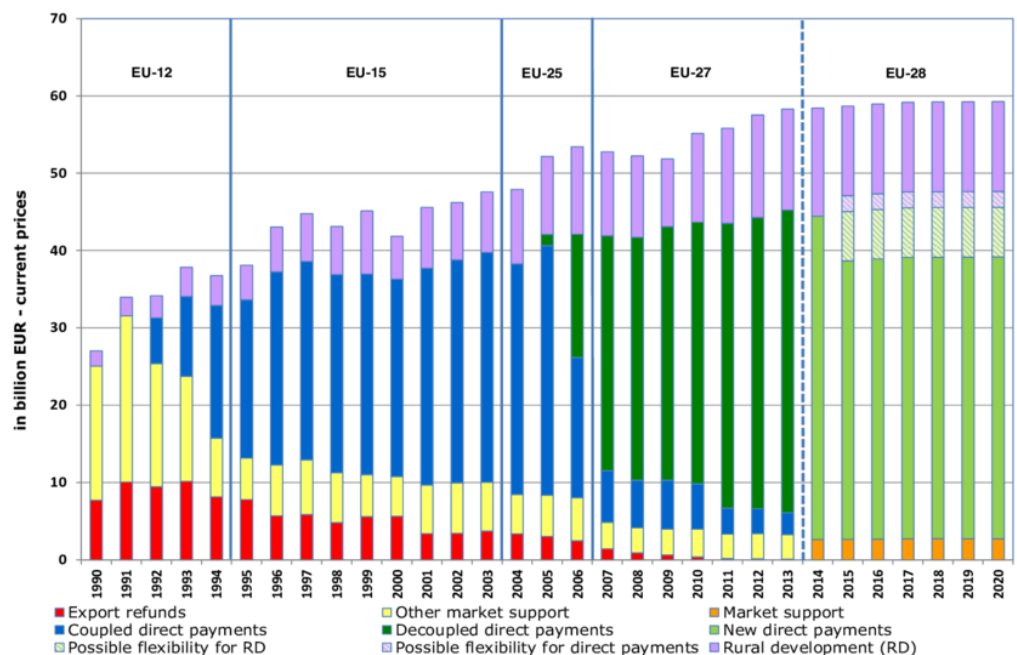
Challenges	Opportunities
Poison thy neighbour/prisoners' dilemma: It works well for local pollutants with available and accessible tech solutions but not for global ones (CO ₂)	Global and regional regimes (Kyoto, COP/EU)
Why not export pollution to poor countries?	Comprehensive trade agreements involving behind-the-border issues: more trade for more institutional quality, social and envi standards
We had our industrial revolution in 19th c. Does Chindia have a right to its own in 21st c.?	Green development aid: knowledge and technology

The EU and the case of CAP

- Environment is a horizontal priority which needs to be taken into account in all other policy areas
- Agriculture: one of most comprehensive and expensive community policies
- Together with forests relevant to 80% of the surface
- Contributes 2% GDP and 4% jobs but 16% of CO2 emissions. Responsible for urbanisation, specialization in environmental-intensive monoculture farming in MENA region

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- Environment first entered on the CAP agenda in 1980s in the context of overproduction and environmental degradation
- Since then, most harmful measures supporting production have largely been replaced and environmental dimension has been introduced (cross compliance, greening, RD). However, incentives for production and intensification remain.
- More specific/tailored measures & SDG compliance are the biggest challenges for the post-2020



What about Slovenia?

- Important contribution of horizontal dimension of environmental policy via
 - Cohesion policy
 - Waste water and waste management
 - Energy efficiency of buildings
 - and CAP
 - Preventing rural exodus, protecting land, water and species ...
- However, environment largely perceived as a burden in farming community. Less funds available and more flexibility post-2020 might result in more pollution vs. better targeting („regressive modulation“)

DR PER GAHRTON:

Who is going to decide on global environmental policies: China or EU?

- At the moment they are both in the lead of environmental policy in the world – the cooperation between the two is important, otherwise China will take the lead
- China is pretty impressive, politicians have more understanding and are being serious about the problem – they are building fields of solar panels, however, they have very polluted cities, which is a big problem they are trying to face and raise awareness about
- Although people are allowed to be critical, the regime is still authoritarian and questioning the communist party is a no-go, although this is positive for the environmental policies implementation, because when the government says something needs to be done, it will be done

Dr. Gahrton says that the EU should be a leader because the EU is more efficient in policy implementing

The EU has a unique and complicated structure – the start of environmental policy was in 1973 and until then, the EU has produced thousands of environmental directives and regulations that are being influential

- However, the EU has introduced policies for a single market, free movement of goods, people, labour, but there is no single policy for the environment (Sweden introduced the air tax)
- The Paris agreement was a big success, but critics say the countries are not realizing the pledges
- Another issues are green jobs and green growth, because they are not taken into account much by the politicians
- In order for the EU to function properly and efficiently, the countries need a common ground, which they do not have – example is the nuclear energy (France promotes it, Sweden dismantles it)
- The EU has early warnings but late lessons – from knowledge to action is a long road

- EU is facing serious problems – Brexit, migration, security and defence – this puts environmental issues in the back, instead of putting them in lead! Without taking care of the environment, we will have negative consequences visible very soon

CVETKA POPRASK, LLM:

She gave us an overview of the state of European seas and European policies regarding that topic – the situation is quite worrying

- The EU is taking care of her maritime surface more than other actors in the international sphere, however there is still a lot to be done
- Between 2001 and 2012 only 9% of habitats were in favourable condition, the most problematic is Mediterranean sea – fish are widely exploited
- Baltic Sea, North Sea – started to recover from overfishing – prove we can repair the damage! But the process is very slow

There are many factors causing problems for the seas:

- Fishing, chemicals, pollution, climate change (oceans absorb CO₂), damage from coastal development and tourism, oil platform, mining, underwater noise, telecommunication cables, munition from war

EUROPEAN POLICIES:

- Europe has an integrated maritime policy and is taking a more holistic approach – blue economy, ecosystem services approach
- However, despite the regulation, over 30% of fish is overexploited
- Common fishery policy – from 2014 has a reference to ecosystem policy
- The EU is a net importer of fish due to its consumption growing – EU self-sufficiency rate is 45%
- fishing agreements with non-EU countries:
 - sustainable fisheries partnership agreements (SFPAs)
 - northern agreements
- problem with an agreement with Morocco – around 94% of fish come from Western Sahara – judged by member states and EC

SOLUTION: international maritime policy where the EU could be the world leader



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ROUNDTABLE NOTES

15 years of Slovenian membership in the EU, 14 May 2019, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana

The event was co-organized with the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence at the Faculty of Social Sciences in the light of 30 Years of Jean Monnet Activities and at the occasion of 15 Years of Slovenian Membership in the EU. The aim was to evaluate various aspects of Slovenian EU membership, including its environmental policy contributions and benefits. A final view was given on an outlook of Slovenian position with reference to its presidency of EU Council in July-December 2021.

All contributors to the round table were from the University of Ljubljana, faculty of social sciences:

- dr. Damjan Lajh: leader of the Jean Monnet Centre of the Excellence
- dr. Marko Lovec: editor of the book on populism and Euroscepticism in Central Europe
- dr. Meta Novak: expert in the field of interest groups
- dr. Jure Požgan: expert in the field of European external policy
- Faris Kočan, junior researcher and PhD student in European Studies

CONTRIBUTIONS and FINDINGS

Dr. Damjan Lajh laid out and overview of the Slovenian position towards and relationship with the EU since independence. He stated that membership in the EU has been set as the strategic goal of Slovenian foreign policy even before independence in 1991. Europeanization has had an important impact on political actors and institutions and has substituted formers' ideology. The EU accession process EU took more than a decade. Accession negotiations have opened on the 31 March 1998 and were completed in December 2002. During the process, Slovenia has been recognized as a good candidate country and an eager learner. In the course of accession, a unique situation has emerged, in which the Slovenian political elite has reached a wide consensus about the common political goal. Political parties have signed an agreement about cooperation, targeted at accession to the EU. At the time, Euroscepticism was almost non-existent - in the referendum vote, almost 90% of the voters have expressed their support for the membership.

In the first few years of the membership, Slovenian political direction was clear - to become the first new member to get into the Eurozone, the Schengen area and to hold the presidency of the Council of the European Union. In the last years, however, the lack of determined public

standpoint on the future of Slovenia in the EU, its interests and role in the Union is to be noticed. Various researchers claim that Slovenia is among the least influential member states, Slovenian MEPs are among the least active ones and Slovenian commissioner performs less successfully than her counterparts. At the same time, the citizens have become less trustful of the EU and the turnout in the EU elections has been steadily declining and is among the worst in the EU.

The roundtable participants have reached the following conclusions:

- since the end of the first Slovenian presidency, the member state has been lacking clear strategy and goals in the framework of EU membership. That resulted in worse preparation of Slovenia in the Council's negotiations and lack of coordination of Slovenian political actors. The process of decision-making of Slovenian actors is influenced by those factors.
- as the new presidency approaches, the lack of qualified staff emerges as one of the leading challenges. If the presidency will be successful, that will be seen more as a "surviving strategy" than anything else. The government of RS has prepared a project for the future presidency, which tackles possible solutions to the insufficient number of public servants for the upcoming EU duties. Engagement of the already employed bureaucrats as well as additional temporary staff enforcements are already planned.
- priorities of the EU will be determined in the presidency troika of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia. It is expected that Germany will take over the leadership of the troika, while Slovenia will be able to recommend its own priority field. At the time of the last Presidency one of the Slovenia's leading interests was the EU expansion to the Western Balkans. In the current situation, a lot of thought needs to be given to identified priority field and whether Slovenia has enough competence and experts in the field.
- Slovenian interest groups are being engaged in the European umbrella organizations. They are less committed to the goals of the organizations than other national interest groups, but they find different paths to get involved in the shaping of the European politics. More limited activity of the interest groups can be linked to the insufficient financial resources. It is not realistic to expect that Slovenian groups would represent only Slovenian interests. Environmental groups in Slovenia, for example, have more in common with similar European groups than with other Slovenian organizations.