

B2 (Regional Communities)

Conditions:

Development paradigm:

- Sustainable development should be geared to local dynamics. Social and cultural values can best be preserved at the community level. Resource allocation cannot be left to the market. Local communities are the cornerstones of society.
- Self-reliance, ecological stewardship and equity are the keys to sustainability.
- Participatory bottom-up approaches towards policy making at local level. Government intervention is necessary to facilitate negotiations between stakeholders and enforce decisions, rather than to impose regulations.
- International co-operation is necessary to obtain sustainable development at global level. This should be targeted at the elimination of poverty by promoting self-reliance regarding food and energy in the poorest countries.
- Large government and high costs to maintain social achievements, cohesion, agriculture etc., imply the highest tax levels as compared to the other 3 scenarios.

Political situation EU:

- No further EU enlargement after accession of 10 CEEC (?); Romania, Bulgaria(?) Turkey does not accede. Reinforced co-operation among core group of EU15 members ends up in a two tier Europe. While co-operation within the core group becomes more important, the EU loses power.
- No further development of supranational powers. National governments remain responsible for Foreign and security policy (2nd pillar) and fiscal policy as well as Justice and Home Affairs (3rd pillar). Harmonisation of unemployment insurance and corporate taxes in core group.
- Restrictive policy regarding international mobility of people from third countries. Limited possibilities for migration among member countries; migration from CEEC citizens countries of the core group is strongly restricted.
- Cohesion policy receives little attention and remains ineffective.
- Social security: Governments of the core group largely maintain the welfare state in its original form.
- CAP subsidies: increase of some +10%, linked to environmental and social targets. Export subsidies are eliminated.

Market protection:

- Agricultural markets protected against competing products to avoid cheap import surges, disrupting EU agriculture.
- Many mature European industries are protected from outside competition through trade barriers. This holds in particular for agriculture, but also for network industries.
- Food safety standards determined by European Food Authority (?);
- Strong attention to non-trade concerns regarding imports from third countries. Production standards of imports regarding health, environment and animal welfare should be at least as high as EU.
- Preference for products from own region.

Environment (pollution):

- High standards agreed at national and EU level. E.g. water framework directive is fully implemented.
- Assessment of the effectiveness of environmental legislation by comprehensive monitoring of management practices and the state of the environment.
- The use of solar energy and bio-energy is supported in order to spare fossil reserves and to relieve dependence on imports from third countries. Subsidies and R&D investments in technology to make this economically more attractive. However, international coordination is weak.

Nature, biodiversity and cultural heritage:

- Maintenance (and acquisition) of natural and cultural heritage is a priority. Requests for funding by EU and national governments are prepared by local communities.

- Hotspots of biodiversity protected by EU regulations. Increase in area as compared to 2000 situation, but an Ecological Main Structure is difficult to achieve due to lack of co-ordination.

Restrictions on land use / production:

- Land use: Restrictions mainly determined at local level.
- nature areas and rural areas receiving support for the maintenance of landscapes and biodiversity are strictly protected.
- Production quotas: Production quotas of milk and sugar decrease to the level of self-sufficiency. New quota may be introduced when self-sufficiency levels tend to be exceeded and excess cannot be sold without subsidies.
- Urban sprawl: restrictive and heterogeneous spatial planning; compact settlements in small and medium-sized cities;

Consequences (interacting)

Economic growth

- Relatively low, especially in periphery. Income disparities decrease within these groups.
- More unequal in other regions but in general some decrease in wealth disparities.

Technology development

- Uneven, especially in resource poor regions with rapid economic development focussed at the development of energy-efficient and environmentally friendly production methods.
- => More efficient use of energy, fertilisers and agrochemicals (in between B1 and A2)
- => Relatively low agricultural yields, due to extensive production and stagnating technology
- => Decrease in (international) trade.

Rather weak international institutions (UN, WTO) resulting in weak co-ordination of international co-operation; mostly bilateral.