24 November 2021

Erik Mathijs

_The EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy: the difficult road towards a European food policy_

Location: Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Campus Etterbeek, Building I

    Room I.0.03 (and via Teams)

Time: 19:00-20:30

The European Commission recently launched its Farm to Fork Strategy as a way to address the significant challenges the EU food system faces within the larger framework of the Green Deal. In this lecture, I explain both the ambitions and limitations of the Strategy, given the existing policy landscape of the EU and its Member States in various domains: agriculture, trade, health, competition, environment, food safety, finance, etc. For this, it is important to also know the context in which the Strategy has to operate. What are the basic components of our food system? What kind of crops and animals do we produce and consume and why? What actors operate in the system and what characterizes them? What are its main economic, social and environmental challenges? How have governments dealt with these challenges throughout history? What are the technological and socio-economic transition pathways that may address these challenges and how are these affected by the Strategy? What is the role of agricultural production, trade, dietary changes and the food environment shaping consumer choices?

Erik Mathijs is Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics at KU Leuven. He coordinates the EU project COCOREADO on linking farmers and consumers, is involved in various other EU and national projects supporting the food transition and contributed to the reflection paper preparing a legislative framework for sustainable food systems supporting the Farm to Fork Strategy, as drafted in the EU’s Joint Research Centre Policy Lab.

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