

Abstract

„Producer groups in the agriculture sector as a legal form of economic consolidation under the Common Agricultural Policy”

The subject of the dissertation is the legal form of economic consolidation of agricultural producers on the example of agricultural producer groups. The dissertation presents the legal and organisational basis for the status and functioning of groups under the Common Agricultural Policy.

The aim of the work is to evaluate the normative solutions for the consolidation of agricultural producers, preceded by the presentation of the genesis and analysis of the evolution of legal instruments regulating agricultural market organisations and factors influencing the consolidation of agricultural producers. The research conducted also served to show the legal model of agricultural producer groups through the prism of its effectiveness and adequacy to contemporary challenges faced by European agriculture, such as climate change, climate-energy transition, globalisation processes, including ensuring the competitiveness of European agriculture on world markets. This objective has also been achieved by presenting the main legal instruments shaping agricultural producer groups. At the same time, dysfunctions of particular mechanisms that discourage the consolidation process have been indicated. The individual chapters of the dissertation present not only the legal instruments for the evolution of agricultural producer groups, but also those that affect the inhibition of the process of their creation. The dissertation identifies possible threats to the development of agricultural producer groups and proposes legal solutions to offset any negative effects.

The paper serves to engage in a scientific discourse on the search for the best forms of economic consolidation in agriculture. Finding the right model can contribute to the development of agriculture and result in an increase in its profitability. The identification of opportunities and risks of particular legal solutions should also be assessed primarily through solutions tailored to each Member State.

As a result of these considerations, it must be made clear that the existing legal instruments at both national and European level are not currently conducive to the consolidation of farmers. The consolidation of farmers in the form of agricultural producer groups is experiencing a rather serious crisis. This is not only linked to legal or financial changes in aid, but above all to changes in agriculture and the economy. The professionalisation of the farming

profession, and thus the emergence of medium-sized and large farms that are able to compete in the market on their own, is slowly making agricultural producer groups a rather anachronistic model of consolidation. At the same time, research has shown that with the development of new spheres of agricultural activity, such as the generation of energy from renewable sources, agricultural producer groups can become an effective mechanism here. Wherever the development of individual farms is not strong enough to be able to realistically negotiate with large buyers of agricultural production. Farm producer groups could be the main producers of renewable energy in the form of biogas and biomethane in the future. The development of renewable energy sources is, in the current geopolitical situation, one of the vital interests of every state, therefore the creation of a legal framework allowing for adequate competition and consolidation of farmers producing energy from renewable energy is a rather urgent task for the Polish legislator to perform.