

*Fifth Conference of the Italian Association of Agricultural and Applied Economics (AIEEA)
June 16-17, 2016 - Bologna, Italy*

The changing role of regulation in the bio-based economy

Call for Papers

Regulation has been broadly defined as a sustained and focused control exercised by a public agency over activities that are valued by a community. As such it has been a main concern of policymakers in a range of fields from financial to industrial and agricultural activities. Examples of regulatory areas in the bio-based economy are risk, health, environment, competition, intellectual property rights. Regulations in all these areas have deep implications for trade issues, global value chains and for the provision of public goods.

For most of the twentieth century, regulation has been considered the primary instrument to deal with market failures and market imperfections in western economies and a number of new regulatory agencies have been created. Starting in the 90s, however, as the private and public costs of regulation have become more apparent, an effort has been devoted to the reduction of the cost of regulation and toward deregulation. An example, the Better Regulation agenda adopted by the European Commission in 2015 has been designed to improve regulation across EU countries with the final objective of reducing the cost of regulation.

In the EU, regulations concerning food retailing, food processing, farming activities, tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade as well as financial markets have deeply affected the bio-based sectors. The starting point of these regulations is guaranteeing food security and food safety to final consumers and a sustainable management of natural resources such as land, water and the rural environment. There is no doubt that, in these areas, the role of EU policies has increased dramatically and questions have been raised on the effectiveness, efficiency and equity of such regulations. In recent years, firms working in agricultural and food production, bioenergy and biotechnology have often protested against the supposed “invasive” role of EU regulations in their activities.

How a viable balance between regulation and deregulation ought to be attained is both a political and scientific question. The scientific community is expected to provide rigorous and sound evidence not only on the nature and size of costs, benefits and related distributional effects but also on the effectiveness of design and implementation of rules and ultimately on the impacts of regulation. This appears to be a challenging objective given the intrinsically multidisciplinary approach that is required to study the increasing complexity of the regulatory framework and the higher variety of instruments (including soft decentralised instruments and nudging).

Agricultural and applied economists have devoted significant effort to investigate the incentives, the mechanism design and evaluate the effects of regulation. In this regard, EU environmental

regulation and food safety policies have provided fascinating case studies. However, there is scope for a multidisciplinary approach that more comprehensively accounts for legal and sociological issues, behavioral aspects of compliance, organization and coordination mechanisms, as in the now popular nudge approach to regulation. Efforts should also be devoted to explore the broader implications of regulation for trade and social welfare, taking into account the private interests underpinning many regulatory choices.

The fifth AIEEA Conference aims at providing a scientific contribution to these issues by expanding the knowledge base on the fundamentals of better regulation, and by promoting a critical debate on the underlying theoretical and methodological issues and policy implications.

Specific issues to be addressed include:

- Cost-benefit analysis of regulation in the bio-based economy;
- Design of enforcement rules for food safety and agri-environmental regulation;
- Nudge approaches to consumer regulation vis a vis command and control regulation in the food chain;
- Political economy of regulation in the bio-based economy;
- Intellectual property rights regulation (geographical indication);
- Regulating the provision of public goods
- Competition Regulation
- Regulation of quality standards and global value chains;
- Impact of alternative types of regulation (standards, licensing and labeling) of the bio-based economy;
- Sources and effects of market failures in the bio-based economy;
- Innovation in methods and tools for regulatory impact analysis;
- Applications to sectoral policies: agriculture, food, biotechnology, bio-energy, biomaterials.

AIEEA welcomes the submission of contributions on the topics above. However, the submission of contributions on all agricultural and applied economics topics is encouraged as well.

Submissions

Contribution proposals should be submitted in English through the conference website at www.aieea.org. There are three types of contributions: contributed papers, organized sessions, and posters.

Contributed papers

Participants intending to present a paper are requested to submit an extended abstract (minimum 1000 words; maximum 1500 words) before January 31, 2016. Abstracts should include:

- a. Introduction to the topic
- b. Description of data and research methodology
- c. Discussion of theoretical and/or empirical results

- d. Emphasis on the paper's potential for generating discussion during the conference
- e. A list of few essential references.

All submitted abstracts will be subject to a blind peer review process. Authors will be notified of paper acceptance by March 11, 2016.

The full version of accepted papers should be submitted by May 27, 2016.

Upon Authors' authorization, the abstracts of accepted papers will be made available on the conference website, and the full text will be posted on *AgEcon Search*

A selection of accepted papers will be considered for publication in a special issue of *Bio-based and Applied Economics*, after going through the journal's standard review process. The deadline for the submission will be June 30, 2016.

Organized sessions

Participants are invited to propose organized sessions primarily, but not exclusively, on topics relevant to the conference themes. Proposals (max 2,000 words) should include the name of the organizer, the session title, the name of contributors, and the title and abstract of each paper. It is suggested that proposed sessions include no more than four papers. Proposals should be submitted by January 31, 2016. Organized session proposals will be subject to a peer review process. Authors will be notified of acceptance by March 11, 2016.

Posters

AIEAA welcomes the submission of posters. Accepted posters will be presented and discussed in dedicated sessions. Participants should submit an abstract (max 500 words) by January 31, 2016. Poster proposals will be subject to a blind peer review process. Authors will be notified of poster acceptance by March 11, 2016.

Presenting author's registration

Authors presenting papers, posters, or organized sessions must register for the conference before May 27, 2016 (failing that the paper/session/poster will be withdrawn from the conference program).

Important deadlines

Abstract submission by authors: **January 31, 2016**

Notification of acceptance to authors: **March 11, 2016**

Full paper/poster submission: **May 27, 2016**

Authors' registration deadline: **May 27, 2016**

Keynote speakers

Fabrizio Cafaggi (European University Institute, Italy)

Stephane Marette (INRA, France)

Karine Nyborg (University of Oslo)

Alessandro Olper (Università Statale di Milano, Italy)

Conference Schedule

The pre-conference will be held on June 16, 2016 in the morning.

The Fifth AIEAA Conference will start at 2.30 PM on Thursday, June 16, 2016 and will end by 5.30 PM on Friday June 17, 2016.

Program Committee

Gianluca Stefani (Università di Firenze, Italy, *Chair*)

Fabio Bartolini (Università di Pisa, Italy)

Daniele Curzi (Università Statale di Milano, Italy)

Luisa Menapace (Technische Universität München, Germany)

Andrea Povellato (Council for Agricultural Research and Economics (CREA-INEA), Italy)

Cristina Salvioni (Università "G. d'Annunzio" di Chieti-Pescara, Italy)

Paolo Sckokai (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Piacenza, Italy)

Davide Viaggi (Università di Bologna, Italy)

Early Registration fees (before April 30)

Regular fee: 150 € (100 € if already member in 2016)

Reduced fee (Ph.D. students, Postdoc): 50 € (30 € if already member in 2016)

Donor member fee: 200 € (100 € if already member in 2016)

Registration fees include the conference lunches, the coffee breaks and the social dinner.

Late Registration fees (after April 30)

Regular fee: 200 € (150 € if already member in 2016)

Reduced fee (Ph.D. students, Postdoc): 70 € (50 € if already member in 2016)

Donor member fee: 250 € (150 € if already member in 2016)

Registration Procedure

Online registration will be possible on the conference website.

Information and contacts

For more updated information and contacts, please refer to the conference site at

www.aieaa.org or email aieaa2016@unibo.it