

Aanvullende financieringsinstrumenten voor het federale biodiversiteitsbeleid in België: een verkenning

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ABSTRACT

Although nature conservation and biodiversity policies are primarily the responsibility of the Belgian Regions, this study concludes that the federal government still has some options to increase the funding base for its biodiversity-related policies. The study in particular assessed ex ante and mostly qualitatively the impacts of the introduction of biodiversity taxes on plant protection products, biocides, fertilisers and alien species sold as ornamental plants or pets and the increase of the existing CITES-related fees. Main conclusions are that most of these biodiversity taxes, as opposed to increased CITES-fees, might generate relatively significant financial resources for the federal government. Those taxes are likely to have limited negative socio-economic implications for the concerned economic sectors if these are kept relatively low. Taxes with a high rate might have negative implications, in particular as for the competitiveness and employment of the agricultural sector. However, negative effects would occur mainly in the short term and would likely vary across sectors.

Keywords: Biodiversity policy; Financing; Environmental taxes; Plant protection products; Biocides; Fertilisers; Alien species; CITES.

JEL Classification Code: D62, D63, H3, H23, Q28

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