

## 60 – Livestock Products and Transnational Economic Instruments

Felix Ekardt

The production of animal food products is (besides fossil fuels) one of the most important noxae with regard to many of the environmental problems, such as climate change, biodiversity loss or globally disrupted nutrient cycles. This presentation – based on various third-party funded projects – provides a qualitative analysis of which regulatory options there are to align livestock farming with the legally binding environmental objectives, in particular Article 2 of the Paris Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity. Two innovative governance approaches are developed and compared: a cap-and-trade scheme for animal products and a livestock-to-land ratio. Both instruments are measured against the above-mentioned environmental objectives, taking into account findings from behavioural sciences and typical governance problems. Both approaches are generally suitable as quantity governance in animal husbandry if they are properly designed (and they are both much more ambitious than some kind of moderate national meat tax that cannot address a target such as cutting down livestock herds by 70-80%). In the end, a combination of both approaches – the economic and the regulatory one – proved to be particularly effective ecologically. All of this simultaneously demonstrates, on the basis of a rarely considered but ecologically highly relevant sector, how a quantity governance approach that is based on an easily comprehensible governance unit (such as livestock products, fossil fuels, and pesticides) can function across all sectors and regions, how it can address various environmental problems – and how it can avoid well-known governance problems such as sectoral or spatial shifting effects, rebound effects, enforcement deficits, and problems of depicting. The question of supplementary border adjustments will also be mentioned in the presentation.

### Biographical note

Felix Ekardt is Director of the Research Unit Sustainability and Climate Policy in Leipzig which he founded in 2009. Since 2009, he is also Professor for public law and legal philosophy at the Rostock University (Faculty of Law) as well as member of the Leibniz Science Campus on Phosphorus Research - as well as member of the Interdisciplinary Faculty (Department Knowledge-Culture-Transformation). His scientific focus as a lawyer, philosopher and sociologist lies in issues around human science sustainability studies. More specifically issues of transformation and social learning processes, justice (particularly human rights), governance and law (sustainability law/ environmental law and sustainability politics/ environmental politics in terms of developing policy instruments on international, European, national and regional level. See website: <http://felix-ekardt.eu/en/werdegang.html>