

Chapter 1.

EXPECTATIONS AND BENEFITS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION MEMBERSHIP FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF POLISH AGRICULTURE

Andrzej Kowalski

Abstract. *Present article reveals expectations and benefits of the European Union membership from the perspective of Polish agriculture. Regarding to the benefits, mainly financial were emphasised. During the 2004 – 2006 period after Poland's accession to the European Union, Poland received about EUR 20 billion for the implementation of various Community policies. Analyses of potential benefits and losses related to integration process emphasised that the Common Agricultural Policy ensures long-term, sustainable conditions for producers. According to many views, recently after five years of membership more than 70% farmers accept EU membership. .*

Keywords: *financial benefits, Common Agricultural Policy, European Union membership, Polish food economy.*