



In the current context of globalization and liberalization of trade and culture, economic -, food-, health-, and climate crisis, the link between agriculture and market seems increasingly challenging. According to the FAO, in 2009, over one billion people are undernourished worldwide. In addition, to feeding the world, which will grow from 6.7 billion to 9.1 billion by 2050, we should increase agricultural production by 70%. Therefore, in a global economy like now, the question of legal regulation of agricultural and food activities becomes essential. Louis Lorvellec had already raised this issue in 1995 when he wondered if the foundations of a market economy stopped at the gates of the farm.

Economists and politicians are not miracle workers - and this is the role of the lawyers to propose a reflection, or even tracks, concerning the link between agriculture and competition in an economy nowadays in crisis. Agricultural activity is a special activity and its product is, therefore, a very special product. This is a support to the realization of human rights like the right to life, and more specifically the right to food. Accordingly, we must - and this is a must - find ways to reconcile agriculture and market by respecting this specificity and which will not submit it to the only market logic. In other words, is the market able to make the agriculture working? It is important to consider the links that bind, or disunit, agriculture and competition.

This will be explored during the “Louis Lorvellec days” proposed within the framework of the Lascaux Program and the University of Nantes, December 3 & 4, 2009.

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