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Before this, he was Head of Unit at the Directorate General for Agricultural and Rural Development of the European Commission, responsible for the "Conception and Consistency of Rural Development". In previous jobs at the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development since 1993, he worked in the areas of policy analysis and policy conception, notably agri-environment measures, rural development, monitoring and evaluation of the Common Agricultural Policy, and the European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture.

Martin Scheele studied "Economic and Social Sciences of Agriculture" at the University of Goettingen where he received a PhD in 1991. Following a research fellowship at the University of Madison, Wisconsin in 1991, he returned to the Department for Agricultural Sciences at the University of Goettingen to obtain in 1993 the formal qualification (Habilitation) for a professorship in the area of environmental economics and agricultural policy.