



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate H. Sustainability and Quality of agriculture and rural development

The Director

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**Short report of the 114th meeting of the Standing Committee on
Organic Farming of 26 September 2013**

President: Markus HOLZER

28 Member States were present. Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and the EFTA secretariat were present as observers.

Section A – Opinion of the Committee

- 1. Draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control (organic aquaculture)**

The draft Regulation was presented for the opinion of the Committee.

Vote: positive opinion (285 in favour, 22 against, 41 abstentions, 4 not represented).

Section B – Points for information and/or discussion

- 2. Document discussion on working document on amendments to Reg. (EC) N° 889/2008**

The Commission presented the proposal for amending Annex I and II with fertilisers, soil conditioners and plant protection products, that are in line with the horizontal legislation. After discussion, Delegations were required to submit its comments in writing by 4th October 2013.

- 3. Main findings of and experiences gained from the audits on organic production and labelling of organic products carried out by the FVO in Member States**

Delegations were provided with an overview of the findings of the audits that took place in the EU and in Third Countries.

4. Reporting and notifications under organic farming legislation

An overview of notifications and reporting due according to the EU organic production legislation was presented. Information was also provided concerning OFIS.

5. Review of EU organic framework – state of play and feedback on administrative costs analysis

The Committee was updated on the policy review process and on the publication on the EU organic website of the results of the online public consultation. Administrative costs and burden resulting from the EU organic legislation were presented, with a detailed feedback on the data collected from the Member States and stakeholders.

6. Irregularities and controls

- a) An update concerning irregularities in the EU was presented.
- b) Update on notification of irregularities concerning imported products.

7. EGTOP – Greenhouse report

The Committee was informed officially of the publication of the EGTOP report at the EU organic website. All the delegation were pleased with the finalisation of the greenhouse mandate by the group of experts. The Commission reminded the Delegations that the report presents the views of the independent experts and it do not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission.

8. Import regime (Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008)

a) Latest developments concerning OFIS (CB application)

A presentation was given on a newly released module of OFIS, allowing the control bodies and control authorities to apply for being listed as equivalent.

b) Proposition of technical adaptations to the incorporation of organic legislation into the EEA Agreement

Iceland, Norway and the EFTA secretariat presented to the Delegations their proposition of technical adaptations to the incorporation of organic legislation into the EEA Agreement.

c) Overview on third countries and CBs

Delegations were provided with an overview on listed and applicant third countries.

9. Miscellaneous

- DG AGRI Anti-Fraud strategy

The presentation did not take place. It will be foreseen in a future SCOF meeting.

- BTSF – Organic Farming.

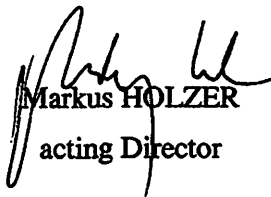
The new Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) training cycle 2013-2015 was presented, including details on programme, dates and location of the training sessions. The delegates were invited to identify participants through the BTSF national contact points network.

- Accreditation of control bodies in the EU

Answers were provided to questions from delegations.

- Documentary evidence

An overview of the replies received was presented to the delegations.


Markus HOLZER
acting Director