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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Directorate B. Multilateral relations, quality policy
The Acting Director

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Short report of the 119th meeting of the Standing Committee on Organic Farming of 19 June 2014

President: Michael ERHART

27 Member States were present. Cyprus was absent, and represented by Greece. Norway and Switzerland were present as observers.

Section A – Opinion of the Committee

- 1. Draft Commission implementing Regulation (EU) No .../... of XXX amending and correcting Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 laying down detailed rules for implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 as regards the arrangements for imports of organic products from third countries**

Draft Commission Regulation. All delegations voted in favour, totally 352 votes.

Section B – Points for information and/or discussion

- 1. Draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 as regards the recognition of control authorities and control bodies for the purpose of compliance and equivalence in relation to the import of organic products**

Discussion

- 2. Action Plan for the future of Organic production in the European Union COM(2014)179final – presentation by the Commission.**

The Commission presented the new Action Plan for the future organic production in the EU, and answered to the questions of delegates.

- 1. Presentation of ongoing work on the electronic certification of imported organic products – Action Plan for the future of Organic Production in the European Union, Action No 12.**

The Commission presented the ongoing work on the development of the electronic certification for imported organic products under the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES).

2. Imports of Organic Products (Article 33(2) & (3) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007): Supervision by the Commission

The Commission presented a comprehensive overview of monitoring and supervision of imports of organic products under the current three systems for imports: third countries equivalence, control bodies equivalence and import authorisations.

3. Reporting and notifications under organic production legislation

An update of the reporting and notifications was provided to the delegations. The Member States were invited to provide in OFIS the missing information due by 1 July 2014.

4. Irregularities

a) Update on notification of irregularities concerning EU products

An update concerning EU irregularity notifications and other relevant cases was provided to the delegations and an exchange of views took place.

b) Update on notification of irregularities concerning imported products

Delegates were briefed on irregularities found on imported products.

5. Examination, according to Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008, of the import authorisations granted to operators concerned by the Vertical Bio operation

The discussion focused on the information provided by the different delegations and the necessary follow-up.

6. EGTOP – update information about the different subgroups, Feed II, Food III and Aquaculture

The COM presented a summary of the EGTOP achievements for the first semester 2014. Four subgroups have met to produce the reports on: PPP (II), Food (III), Feed (II) and aquaculture (B). The recently published PPP (II) report was presented to the delegates..

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

a) Overview on third countries and CBs.

b) Korea, state of play.

The delegations were updated on the state of play of the negotiations on equivalence.

c) Recent on-the spot missions.

The delegations were updated on the state of play of recent on the spot mission to Colombia, Ecuador and Chili and on the reasons for the cancelling of the missions to Thailand and Mexico.

8. Miscellaneous

- a) Point raised by AT (*Article 11 of Regulation (EC) n° 834/2007*).

The COM distributed, as agreed in the previous SCOF, the letter replying to the AU question on the interpretation of Article 11 of regulation 834/2007.

- b) Commission informed Member States of its intention to propose for vote in the upcoming 8 July meeting a draft regulation extending for 3 years the current derogations on non-organic pullets and allowance for non-organic feed.

- c) DE requested information about the recent opinion of EGTOP on potassium phosphonate.

(see point 8)

- d) FR wanted to get information on the possible authorisations of the "basic substance" horsetail.

(see point 8)

Addendum to the report of the 118th meeting of the Standing Committee on Organic Farming of 15-16 May 2014

"The DK delegation raised an issue about contamination of Danish apples with an herbicide called "prosulfoarb". According to the Danish administration, traces of this pesticide have been detected on organic farms where apparently the substance was not used but transported by air over large distance. It was detected by a Danish supermarket chain during its own quality control analyses last November 2013. The Danish delegation wanted to inform that they have drawn an action plan which is based on information delivered from stakeholders. The plan contains a broad range of precautionary measures on how to avoid drift and contamination when conventional farmers are using pesticides. They will send a presentation in writing of the case before the next SCOF."



Michael ERHART

Annex: List of participants