



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B. Multilateral relations, quality policy  
The Director

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## Short report of the 121<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee on Organic Farming of 22-23 September 2014

**President: Diego CANGA FANO**

28 Member States were present. Norway and Switzerland were present as observers.

### Section A – Opinion of the Committee

N/A

### 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 [Ares(2014)432156]**

The Commission made a presentation on the import of compliant products into the EU.

- 2. Draft Regulation amending 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**

The Commission presented a working document in relation to the draft Regulation in subject.

- 3. Draft Commission implementing Regulation (EU) No .../..of XXX amending and correcting 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. (based on EGTOP Aquaculture reports A and B)**

Discussion on the Commission proposal which takes into account the EGTOP opinion on Aquaculture A and B reports. Delegations were invited to provide further comments.

#### **4. FVO audits**

Presentation by the Commission on the audit working programme for organics in 2015.

#### **5. Reporting and notifications under organic farming legislation**

The delegations were updated on the status of received notifications.

#### **6. Irregularities**

##### **a) Update on notification of EU irregularities**

An update concerning EU irregularity notifications and other relevant cases was provided and an exchange of views took place. Delegations were invited to provide information on specific cases.

##### **b) Update on notification of irregularities concerning imported products**

The Commission provided an update of the cases notified between 4/7/2014 and 31/8/2014. Furthermore an analysis of the irregularities notified since 1/1/2013 as regards involvement of Member States and CBs was presented, followed by a discussion on the speed and effectiveness of their handling. Finally, Member States presented five recent cases, followed by a discussion.

#### **7. Chlorate residues in food**

The Commission presented the most recent state of play on the recent rise in findings of chlorate residues in food products.

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

##### **a) Overview on third countries and CBs.**

At the Commission's initiative, an authorisation granted pursuant to Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 was examined by the Committee.

The Commission debriefed the Committee about the last videoconference meeting of the EU-Canada Working Group on organics.

##### **b) Information on the peer review carried out by the USNOP in UK and France on 21-25 July**

The Commission presented the findings of the peer review

##### **c) Controls on EU organic dairy production without the use of antibiotics for export to the US under the EU-US equivalence arrangement (outline sent by email to MS delegates on 4 December 2013)**

The Commission reminded MS the importance of this outline in the framework of EU-US Equivalence Arrangement.

##### **d) Korea: the state of play was presented**

##### **e) OFIS: developments related to the import authorisation module.**

The COM informed that no new import authorisations shall be issued in OFIS as of 30 September 2014, due to end of period for granting import authorisations as of 1 July 2014.

## 9. EGTOP – updated information on current reports: Food III and Feed II

The progress in EGTOP was explained by COM: two draft reports are going to be discussed at the next EGTOP plenary meeting and Aquaculture part B report has been recently published.

The Commission informed delegations about the planning of new mandates for 2015 and asked for comments on the recently updated templates.

## 10. Miscellaneous<sup>1</sup>

- DE – Imports from Third Countries

The Commission replied to two questions from DE.

- SE – Conditions to be applied to processing of commercial inputs.

The Commission informed that this question could be asked to EGTOP in the framework of the new mandates for 2015.



Diego CANGA FANO

**Annex:** List of participants

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<sup>1</sup> Any subjects that the Member States wish to discuss under point 'Miscellaneous' need to be submitted to the Commission and the other Member States at the latest one week before the meeting of the Regulatory Committee on Organic Production.