



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

Brussels,
JO/sn/agri.ddg1.b.4(2014)4358928

Short report of the 122nd meeting of the Regulatory Committee on Organic Production of 25 November 2014

President: Diego CANGA FANO

27 Member States were present. Cyprus was absent. Iceland, Norway and Switzerland were present as observers.

Section A – Opinion of the Committee

- 1. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) amending Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 as regards the origin of organic aquaculture animals, aquaculture husbandry practices, feed for organic aquaculture animals and products and substances allowed for use in organic aquaculture**

The Committee voted in favour of the adoption of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) amending Regulation No 889/2008. PL abstained because it did not support the approach followed to certify the sustainability of feed from whole fish, while HR abstained because it considered that the Implementing Regulation should have addressed the issue of availability of organic juveniles. All other delegations voted in favour (CY had submitted a declaration of vote). In response to comments from Member States, the Commission committed to further assess the issue of organic juveniles availability ahead of the entry into force of the 100% requirement on 1/1/2016. To do so, the Commission will send the Member States a questionnaire to collect information about the current availability of juveniles; it will also contact stakeholders – in particular the ones who had submitted comments on the Implementing Regulation – to collect further inputs. On the basis of the information collected, the issue will be put on the agenda of the Committee before summer 2015.

Section B – Points for information and/or discussion

- 2. 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 informed about a meeting with EOCC (European Organic Certifiers Council) to identify the EU legal provisions that raise concerns with regard to their implementation in third countries.

3. Review of EU organic framework – state of play

This point was not discussed due to a lack of time.

4. Electronic certification for imported organic products – state of play

The Commission updated delegations on the development of the system for electronic certification for imported organic products under the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) and invited them to provide details of the authorities endorsing the certificates of inspection with a view to testing the system.

5. Basis substances: state of play

This point was not presented due to a lack of time.

6. Irregularities

a) Update on notification of EU irregularities

Delegates received an update of notifications, with some specific cases brought up to their attention, and were reminded of the requirements on notification deadlines.

b) Follow-up declassification of products from Romania following message of 3/10/2014

An overview of the situation was presented, followed by a discussion concerning follow-up actions.

c) Update on notification of irregularities concerning imported products

(1) Overview of notifications per 01/11/2014

The Commission announced [the number of new notifications since the last meeting and of total open cases. A discussion on the best modus operandi in investigating and responding to such notifications followed.

(2) Cases for presentation by the notifying Member State and discussion

The Member States responsible presented the state of investigation of the cases listed below and discussed options for more efficient operating procedures with the Commission.

(a) 167 (75/2014) NL

(b) 143 (49/2014) DE

(c) 111 (15/2014) ES

(3) 2012 and 2013 cases

7. EGTOP

a) Presentation of EGTOP Report on Food III and EGTOP Report on Feed II.

The Commission informed that EGTOP report on Feed II was not finished by the experts yet and presented the executive summary of the Food III report. Both reports will be

published asap on the DG AGRI website.

b) Update on 2015 programme and proposal of new mandates (Mandate for technical advice on organic fertilizers and soil conditioners II; Mandate for technical advice on disinfectants and cleaning agents both for animal and plant production). The two new mandates for 2015 were presented and comments were requested before 15 December 2014.

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

a) Overview on third countries and CBs.

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

b) Korea

The Commission informed MS on the state of play of the current discussions on an organic equivalence agreement with Korea.

c) Australia

The Commission informed MS on the results of the FVO audit of Australia's control system and the consequences regarding its status as equivalent country listed in Annex III of Reg. 1235/2008.

d) Controls on EU organic dairy production without the use of antibiotics for export to the US under the EU-US equivalence arrangement

The Commission drew the attention on the outline sent to MS on December 2013 and sent again before this meeting.

e) United States

The Commission briefed MS about the last meeting of the EU-US Organic Working Group held by videoconference.

9. Miscellaneous¹

- Developments under OFIS.

The Commission announced the development of a new tool for the transmission of organic data feeding into the annual reports on control activities under the Multiannual National Control Plans, and into those plans. Delegates were also invited to verify OFIS users, as part of the necessary regular review of access rights.

- Import of micro-algae products.

BE and CZ introduced the issue at stake. The Commission provided some elements for reflexion and collected information from the Delegations.

- Validity of certificates issued by control bodies that have lost their recognition (NL, DE, FR)

DE explained the issue, which is theoretical so far. The Commission asked MS to inform about the economic impact that this situation could have.

- Feed additives – how does the revision of feed additives affect the review of the organics Regulation. The point was explained by DG SANCO as few feed additives listed in Annex VII of Regulation 889/2008 need to be aligned with the recent amendments of feed additives Regulation.

- New Infographics on the Web site on Organics

¹ 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.

The Commission presented a series of four new Infographics on Organics which are available in 23 EU official languages and can be downloaded on the internet. Delegates were invited to use them and promote them with their stakeholders.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diego Canga". The signature is stylized with a large, looped 'D' and a long horizontal stroke that underlines the name.

Diego CANGA FANO