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

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Short report of the 123rd meeting of the Regulatory Committee on Organic Production of 03-04 February 2015

President: Diego CANGA FANO

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

Section A – Opinion of the Committee

1. 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**

– Implementation of EU provisions in third countries

The Commission presented a preliminary draft table listing the provisions from the EU regulations that could be difficult to apply in third countries and some proposals to tackle with them. This exercise, in cooperation with EOCC (main control bodies' association), aims to facilitate the shift to compliance.

2. **IRM Organic: Training on improved risk management tools for organic inspectors**

Presentation by Dr. Jochen Neuendorff (GfRS Resource Protection Ltd) of the results of the EU-funded project, concerning improved risk-based controls.

3. **Electronic certification for imported organic products**

Presentation of the state of play and next steps for the project, including a hands-off demonstration of the IT module with the creation of an electronic certificate for imported products, and of ongoing supporting work to link products under the scope of the Regulation No 834/2007 with product categories of Regulation No 1235/2008.

4. Reporting and notifications under organic production legislation

Reminder on regular notifications and presentation of new functionalities in OFIS (updates of lists of control bodies and control authorities; dashboards to monitor progress). Discussion of comments on new OFIS module for organic data under the Multiannual National Control Plans and Annual Reports.

5. Import of sunflower cakes for feed from Ukraine

Update on notification of 5 recently notified irregularities on imported sunflower seed expeller from Ukraine, the distribution of these product to Member States and follow-up measures taken. Presentation by Member States involved and discussion on concerted follow-up measures to be taken by Commission Services and Member States Competent Authorities.

6. Follow up to irregularities

a) Overview of EU irregularities (reporting period 6/11/2014 – 6/1/2015)

(1) 59 open cases, 20 new cases, 16 agreed cases¹

Most new and agreed cases relate to *unauthorised substances*, the review of agreed cases points to *insufficiently effective controls*. Cases presented as examples:

- 155/2013 (OFIS EU 911) DE-FR
- 289/2014 (OFIS EU 1299) AT-DE

Information was requested for case 336/2014(OFIS EU 1394) FR-PT (false certificate).

(2) Follow up of cases discussed during the previous RCOP meeting

b) Update on notification of irregularities concerning imported products

(1) Between 01/11/2014 and 13/01/2015, 30 new irregularities were notified.

(2) The following cases were presented by the notifying Member State:

- (a) FR: 222 (129/2014) – sunflower seed expeller from Ukraine
- (b) DE: 115 (119/2014) – vegetable leaves from Egypt

(3) General follow-up of the 15 cases notified between 01/01/2014 and 30/06/2014 that were not closed yet

7. EGTOP - updated information on current works

The Commission informed Member States about the updating of 2015 EGTOP programme presented in the November RCOP with a new mandate on wine for the first semester together with fertiliser mandate. The mandate on cleaning and disinfection will be for the second semester. The Commission informed too about the delay on the publication of EGTOP report on Feed II, because the delivery from EGTOP was submitted very late. The quality check of it is ongoing.

¹ In these cases the notifying MS accepted the reply of the notified MS. Both parties agree and propose to close the file. In other words, neither of the MS considers that further action is needed.

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

a) Overview on third countries

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

b) Korea

The Commission informed MS on the finalisation of the organic equivalency arrangement with the Republic of Korea.

c) US

The Commission briefed MS on the last developments concerning the EU-US Organic Equivalence Arrangement.

d) Canada

The Commission briefed MS on the state-of-play of the requests for extending the scope of the EU-CA Organic Equivalence Arrangement.

9. Miscellaneous²

- **SE** : poultry and pig production, combined plant fertilisers (Ares(2015)321304)
- **BE** : Microalgae (Ares(2014)4337954)
- **ES** : Wording of Art 65(1) of Reg. (CE) No 889/2008 ("physical inspection") (Ares(2015)337904)
- **FR** : Cobalt (Ares(2015)401695)
- **DE**: delisted control bodies and consequences on COI (R. (EU) No 1287/2014)
- **State of play on organics statistics**: Eurostat presented the state of play on the collection of organics statistics for the last year. Progress reports will be sent shortly to Member States requesting to fill-in the gaps.



Diego CANGA FANO

Annex: List of participants

² 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 Standing Committee on Organic Farming.