



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

Brussels,
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Short report of the 126th meeting of the Regulatory Committee on Organic Production of 16-17 July 2015

President: Diego CANGA FANO

26 Member States were present. CY & FI were absent. 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 889/2008 as regards substances: Annex II, VI & VIII

The COM presented the new features of the working document compared with the previous version and gave till 15 August for submitting comments. A TBT notification will be done in September taken into account those written comments submitted by MSs. The document will be presented after the TBT commenting period of 60 days again at the earliest occasion to RCOP meeting for voting.

2. Interpretative note on the absence of detailed EU production rules for certain animal species, aquatic plants and certain microalgae (Article 42, second subparagraph of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007)

The COM made a detailed presentation of the Interpretative note.

3. EGTOP

COM gave an update information about EGTOP as regard the mandates discussed at the wine and fertiliser subgroups and the meeting programmed for September for the subgroup of cleaning and disinfection mandate.

4. Follow-up on the questionnaire for the collection of data on the availability of organic aquaculture juveniles

The COM presented its assessment of the available data and information on organic juveniles, and explained why it does not consider it necessary to introduce new measures ahead of the entry into force of the 100% requirement on 1/1/2016. Following discussion, MS are invited to submit inputs on what exceptional circumstances they consider could materialise which might require the granting of exemptions, while the COM will confirm whether art. 47 of Reg. 889/2008 (catastrophic circumstances) could be applied to aquaculture.

5. Pesticides residues testing in organic production

Presentation on pesticide residues testing by the Director of the European Reference Laboratory for Pesticide Residues in fruits and vegetables, followed by a presentation by the Food and Veterinary Office of the ongoing project to help Member States implementing effective controls for pesticide residues testing in organic, through a questionnaire sent to all MS (December 2014) and audits in five MS (2015 and 2016).

6. Electronic certification of organic products imported into the EU

a) Overview of comments submitted further to the first phase of testing of the IT system

COM presented an overview of the MS detailed and constructive comments, together with the replies at this stage and the technical improvements in TRACES. MS feedback on the workflow at the borders and on the special customs procedures as applied in practice was also illustrated.

b) First exchange of views on the aspects to clarify and/or amend in Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 with the view to introduce electronic certification of imports.

COM presented a draft working document aimed at kicking off the discussion, on which comments were requested by 4 September.

The working documents – as well as the update of the draft working document linking products to product categories - were uploaded on CIRCABC.

7. Implementation of EU organic regulations in third countries

The Commission explained that the document circulated to the Delegations is the final version. The work achieved will be valued in the framework of the drafting of implementing/delegated acts to apply the compliance system based on the new regulation to be adopted.

8. Follow up on irregularities

a) Update on notification of EU irregularities

(1) Overview of notifications as of 22/06/2015

Delegates received the overview for the period 30/4 to 22/6, were reminded of the requirements on notifications and invited to close all pending cases.

(2) Cases discussed

- 69/2015, 68/2015, 67/2015, 62/2015, 33/2015, 32/2015, 22/2015, 21/2015 – citrus fruits, ES;
- 92/2015 and 91/2015 – rapeseed, PL: COM invited to provide complementary information without delay, as the case may entail fraud;
- 87/2015 – sunflower cakes, IT;
- 22/2015 (linked to RASSF) – egg powder, NL
- 49/2015 (linked to RASSF) – feed, DE

b) Update on notification of irregularities concerning imported products

(1) Overview of notifications per 15/06/2015

30 new cases were notified between 25/04/2015 and 15/06/2015.

Of the 2015 cases, 52 were open and overdue.

For 2014, the overview table only shows the 28 open cases.

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

(a) 60/2015 - DE – bananas from Peru

(b) 37/2015 - NL – blueberries from Chile

(c) 255 - IT – hazelnut paste from Turkey

(3) Follow-up of cases presented in May 2015 RCOP

(a) 16/2015 - UK – wheat from Kazakhstan

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

a) Overview on third countries

- Overview on applicant third countries:

The Commission presented the state of play of treatment of third countries' applications received by the cut-off date of 1 July 2014: out of the 19 applications received, one was listed (South Korea), 9 were closed (El Salvador, Uruguay, Nicaragua, Taiwan, Peru, Paraguay, Bolivia, Honduras and the Dominican Republic) and 8 are still pending (Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Thailand, China, Turkey and Serbia).

- Amendment of Annex 9 to the EU/CH Agreement

The Commission explained that a draft Commission Decision will be submitted to the opinion of the next Committee, having as aim to keep the Annex 9 to the EU/CH Agreement consistent with the EU and the Swiss legislation as recently amended.

10. Opportunities for organics under the new agricultural promotion policy

The COM presented the on-going reform of the agricultural promotion policy with a focus on its relevance for the organic sector.

Miscellaneous¹

a) Organic statistics : state of play of data collection in 2015

COM provided a state of play of the collection of organic statistics by EUROSTAT for 2014 and requested MS feedback on reporting and calculation of organic operators by 4 September.

b) OFIS

COM updated on the development of the module to submit organic data under the Multiannual National Control Plans/Annual Reports and requested MS feedback, by 4 September, on the identified aspects for clarification.

c) Organic certification of inputs such as fertilisers and pesticides

The Commission provided explanations as regards the possibility of certifying inputs as organic.



p.o. Michael ERHART
Diego CANGA FANO

Annex: List of participants

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.

List of participants
Regulatory Committee on Organic Production of 16-17 July 2015

Country	Organisation	Participants
BE	SERVICE PUBLIC DE WALLONIE – DG AGRICULTURE, RESSOURCES NATURELLES & ENVIRONNEMENT – DIRECTION DE LA QUALITE	2
	VLAAMSE OVERHEID, AFDELING DUURZAME LANDBOUWONTWIKKELING	
BG	PERMANENT REPRESENTATION	1
CZ	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OF CZECH REPUBLIC	1
DK	MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES	2
DE	MINISTERIUM FÜR KLIMASCHUTZ, UMWELT, LANDWIRTSCHAFT, NATUR- UND VERBRAUCHERSCHUTZ	3
	BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR ERNÄHRUNG LANDWIRTSCHAFT UND VERBRAUCHERSCHUTZ - BMELV	
EE	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	1
IE	DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND THE MARINE	1
EL	PERMANENT REPRESENTATION	1
ES	MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA, ALIMENTACIÓN Y MEDIO AMBIENTE – SUBDIR. GEN. DE CALIDAD DIFERENCIADA Y AGRICULTURA ECOLÓGICA	1
FR	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	1
HR	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	1
IT	MINISTERO DELLE POLITICHE AGRICOLE ALIMENTARI E FORESTALI – UFFICIO PQA5 – AGRICOLTURA BIOLOGICA	2
CY	-	-
LV	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	1
LT	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	1
LU	MINISTERE DE L'AGRICULTURE, DE LA VITICULTURE ET DE LA PROTECTION DES CONSOMMATEURS	1
HU	MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT – DEPARTMENT OF FOOD CHAIN CONTROL	1
MT	MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE	1
NL	MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS	2
AT	BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR GESUNDHEIT (BMG)	2
	INSTITUTE OF ORGANIC FARMING AND FARM ANIMAL BIODIVERSITY	

Country	Organisation	Participants
PL	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT – DEPARTMENT OF PROMOTION AND COMMUNICATION	2
PT	DIREÇÃO-GERAL DE AGRICULTURA E DESENVOLVIMENTO RURAL	1
RO	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	1
SI	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT	1
SK	PERMANENT REPRESENTATION	2
FI	-	-
SE	SWEDISH BOARD OF AGRICULTURE	2
	NATIONAL FOOD AGENCY – FOOD STANDARDS DEPARTMENT	
UK	DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS (DEFRA)	2
EFTA	-	-
IS	-	-
NO	NORWEGIAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY	1
CH	FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH EAER	1