



**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 131<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Committee on Organic Production of 2 March 2016**

**President: Diego CANGA FANO**

27 Member States were present. 1 Member State was absent. Norway and Switzerland were present as observers.

### **Section A – Opinion of the Committee**

- 1. Draft Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 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 Committee gave a favourable opinion on the draft Regulation (26 MS in favour, 2 Member States were not represented, 1 Member State later explained its position against the text).

### **Section B – Points for information and/or discussion**

- 1. Draft Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) amending Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 as regards the electronic certificate of inspection and Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 as regards the requirements for the preparation of food and feed and the transmission of information to the Commission (D042122)**

The Commission thanked delegations that had sent comments to the text distributed in the last meeting. A discussion followed on those comments.

- 2. Follow up to irregularities and fraud allegations in the EU**
  1. The Commission gave an overview of notifications for the period 31/12/2015 to 02/02/2016.

2. Cases for presentation by the notified and notifying Member States, information and discussions
  - INEU 143/2015 FR-ES (barley)
  - INEU 195/2015 DE-HU (spelt flour) and related cases
3. Commission's preliminary assessment and discussion
  - 220/2015 FR-ES (tilia)
  - 74/2015 FI-UK (white tea)
4. Follow-up of cases presented in COP
  - INEU 51/2015 BE-NL (yellow peas)

### **3. Follow up to irregularities and fraud allegations on imported products**

1. Overview of notifications as per 01/02/2016
2. Analysis of notifications in 2015 as regards third countries, notifying Member States, products, irregularities and control entities
3. Follow-up of cases presented in COP:
  - a. 127/2015 – AT – spelt from Ukraine
  - b. 121/2015 – UK – barley grass powder from China

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

#### 1) US

The Commission briefed the Member States on the latest meeting of the EU-US Organic Working Group held by videoconference on 2 February.

#### 2) Overview third countries

The Commission updated the delegations concerning negotiations on organic trade agreements with Colombia and Mexico.

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

The Commission reminded the Member States of the reporting and notification requirements by 31 March 2016 via OFIS, and made available the steps to confirm/update the list of control bodies and control authorities approved on 31 December 2015.

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

### - Organic rice production in the EU MS – exchange of views

An exchange of views took place with the delegations where production of organic rice takes place in the EU.

### - Meeting with EOCC on handling irregularities – debriefing COP delegates

Delegates received a feedback on the results of a recent meeting with EOCC on handling irregularities and OFIS notifications.

### - EGTOP

The Commission informed of two new EGTOP reports and requested urgent inputs for the EGTOP PPP III subgroup that is foreseen on 08-10 March.

### - DE: Guidelines on additional official controls on organic products (Ares(2016)819429)

The Commission provided some details and background information with regard to the risk profile that formed the basis for the guidelines especially for the selection of the third countries concerned. The Commission clarified the point of entry to be considered for the implementation of the additional control measures.

### - LV: questions on Interpretative note N° 2015-01 (Ares(2016)851364)

The Commission explained in more detail the RIPAC Note as regards the production of rabbits in Latvia. The LV delegation understood the problem and will send detailed information as needed.

### - IT: Use of private samples in OFIS irregularity notifications (Ares(2016)953555)

The Commission commented on the use of private analytical test results in irregularity notifications.

### - IT: Authorization of inputs by equivalent CBs in TCs (Ares(2016)953555)

The Commission provided information on criteria used for acknowledging equivalence of CBs standards in third countries and confirmed that the case brought forward by IT will be follow-up with the concerned CB. The Commission will take appropriate measures to ensure that the concerned CB consistently apply its recognised standard.

### - BE: question on organic vegetables in a pot (Ares(2016)975376)

The Commission agreed to tackle the issue as soon as possible.

### - PL: notifications – improvement in OFIS (Ares(2016)1046498)

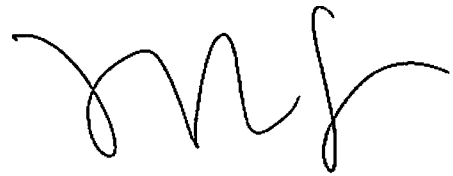
The Commission took note of the request made by Poland concerning improvements of OFIS. The Commission informed the Member States that possible changes have still to be discussed with the IT unit. Discussions took place.

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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 Committee on Organic Production.

- PL: Problem raised by a CB concerning exports to Korea (Ares(2016)1046498)

The question was addressed.



p.o. João ONOFRE  
in absence of Diego CANGA FANO