



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Directorate B. Quality, Research & Innovation, Outreach
Acting Director

Brussels,
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SUMMARY RECORD

Meeting of the Committee on Organic Production

13 July 2017

Chairman: Nicolas VERLET

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. Follow up to irregularities and fraud allegations in the EU

1) Overview of notifications

Per 15/06/2017 152 INEU cases were notified.

2) Case for presentation by the notified/notifying Member State and discussion

- INEU 351/2016 RO-SK, INEU 74/2017 & INEU 78/2017 IT-SK, wheat, corn, soy, sunflower seeds

SK explained that the SK CB was investigating the suspicious operator even before the irregularity was notified. It cross-checked with the Romanian CB. The SK operator refused controls and communication with the CB and the CA since November 2017. The case was now with the police since January 2017. RO did not comment because it was absent.

COM commented that operators that refuse controls have to be suspended immediately without further ado. Actions taken by SK CB and CA were too slow and had not prevented further trade of the suspicious products.

2. Follow up to irregularities and fraud allegations on imported products

1) Overview of notifications

As per 12/06/2017, 201 INTC cases were notified.

COM welcomed that BG and GR were now also introducing notifications. It observed certain acceleration in the replies. It encouraged MS to notify immediately after the

detection and to evaluate the replies without delay, so as to operate the whole system closer to "real time", which could make it more effective.
UK added that long investigations were detrimental for the credibility and the profitability of the businesses.

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

a. 156/2017 – IT – rapeseed from Brazil

IT had requested additional information on the agricultural practices in Brazil, such as crop rotation.

b. 158/2017 – DE – papaya puree from Switzerland, originating in India

DE had requested CH to also inform NL, where the importer and first consignee was located. COM commented that these trade chains, including traders and C, are very complex. While remaining rigid on who is to act, it was good to inform all parties involved.

c. 159/2017 - NL – orange juice concentrate from Turkey

NL explained this finding of 7 pesticide residues, which NL blocked immediately, but it notified the case only 3 months later. CB had not replied in OFIS to date, 27 days after the deadline.

d. 24/2017 and 125/2017 – corn from Russian Federation

NL explained that the suspicion of fumigation in Russia was not sustained by the CB. But the operator, Hakan (Turkey and UAE), was now nevertheless suspended by the CB because of confirmed irregularities with corn exported to US.

3. Guidelines on additional official controls on imports from Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Russian Federation

Between 1/11/2016 and 1/7/2017, 26 irregularities were notified on products imported from the 3 countries concerned: 17 from Ukraine, 5 from Russia and 4 from Kazakhstan (of which 1 via Turkey). Compared to the previous 10 months, the number of irregularities appears to remain more or less the same. The nature of the pesticide residues detected pointed for 50% of these cases to a contamination during transport or storage, in 25% of the cases to a breach of the production rules or fraud and in 25% of the cases it could be both.

Furthermore, a conference and study tour on "Improving integrity of organic supply chains" will be organised in Odesa and Kherson, Ukraine, from 18 to 22 September 2017, with the cooperation of the Ukrainian authorities. The Commission will attend. The outcome will be taken into account when evaluating the guidelines and taking a decision on prolonging them or not in the September COP.

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

1) Implementation of the electronic certificate of inspection for imports of organic products: exchange of views

The Commission presented the last developments in TRACES. Several Member States raised practical aspects to be solved until the end of the transitional period.

2) Mission to Taiwan, 19-23 June 2017

The Commission debriefed about the mission carried out in Taiwan in the week of 19 June.

3) Mission to Japan, 3-7 July 2017

The Commission debriefed about the mission carried out in Japan in the week of 3-7 July.

5. EGTOP: Commission explained that the selection process is finalized and the decision is expected to be published by the end of the month. Experts will then be notified and invited for the first meeting (expected 9-10 October). 5 more requests were received for agenda items.

6. Controls – state of play on the notifications sent by MS to the Commission according to articles 35(b) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and 94(1)b of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008

A state of play of the situation of the notifications has been presented by the Commission.

7. Discussion on 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 commission informed COP on its intentions to suspend one Control body from Annex IV of Regulation 1235/2008 due to the loss of accreditation from its accreditation body. The vote will be required by written procedure on 24-25 July.

8. Miscellaneous

- a. Insect protein (raised by UK). Questions were introduced, an in depth discussion will take place next meeting when the relevant SANTE colleague is invited to explain the issues related to the animal by-product Regulation and the legislation on TSE. NO, DK, IT FR expressed interest in the subject
- b. UK, together with IE, FR, SE, BE and NL wished to be informed of the Commission's intentions with regard to the derogations for pullets and protein feed. The Commission recalled that the proposal for which a political agreement has been achieved at the Trialogue of 28 June includes an extension of the derogations for these two points. The Commission will assess the situation once the Agricultural Council has formally adopted a position on the final text in the autumn, as announced by the Maltese Presidency.

< e-signed >

p.o. Nicolas VERLET

in absence of Lene NAESAGER

List of participants– Summary Record
Meeting of the Committee on Organic Production
13 July 2017

MEMBER STATE	Ministry Or Organization	NUMBER OF PERSONS
BE	Vlaamse Overheid	1
	SPW Wallonie	1
BG	Ministry of agriculture, food and forestry	2
CZ	Ministry of agriculture	1
DK	Danish Veterinary and Food Administration	1
	Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark	1
DE	Representation of North Rhine Westphalia to the EU	1
	Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft- Ministry of Food and Agriculture	1
EE	Ministry of Rural Affairs	1
IE	Dep. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	1
EL	Permanent representation	1
ES	MAPAMA-Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment	1
	GENERALITAT DE CATALUNYA (DARP)	1
FR	Ministère de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation	1
	Ministry of Economy	1
	INAO	1
HR	Ministry of Agriculture	1
IT	MIPAAF-Ministry of Agriculture	2
CY	-	-
LV	Ministry of Agriculture	1
LT	Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania	1
LU	Ministry of Agriculture / Administration of Technical Services for Agriculture	1
HU	Ministry of Agriculture	1
MT	Ministry for Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change	1
NL	Ministerie van Economische Zaken (RVO)	1
	Ministerie van Economische Zaken	1

AT	BMGF	1
	HBLFA Raumberg Gumpenstein / BMLFUW	1
PL	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	2
PT	DIREÇÃO-GERAL DE AGRICULTURA E DESENVOLVIMENTO RURAL	1
RO	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	1
SI	Permanent Representation	1
SK	CENTRAL CONTROL AND TESTING INSTITUTE	1
FI	Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira	1
SE	SWEDISH BOARD OF AGRICULTURE	1
	NATIONAL FOOD AGENCY	1
UK	DEFRA	2
ISL	-	-
CH	Mission of Switzerland to the EU	1
NOR	Norwegian Food Safety Authority	1
<i>TOTAL</i>		42