



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

Brussels,
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SUMMARY RECORD

Meeting of the Committee on Organic Production

24 – 25 January 2018

Chair: Nicolas VERLET

Delegations present: All Member States were present except CY.

1. PROPOSED MEASURES ON WHICH AN OPINION MAY BE REQUESTED

N/A

2. POINTS FOR INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION

1. Review of organic legislation

The EC presented a summary of the replies to a questionnaire that was sent to the MSs before the COP on planning for implementing and delegated acts for the new regulation. Based on the replies from the MSs the grouping of implementing and delegated acts was preliminary agreed together with the following order of work:

1. Group of IAs and DAs referring to production rules – II semester of 2018
2. Group of IAs and DAs referring to controls – I semester of 2019
3. Group of IAs and DAs referring to labelling – II semester of 2019
4. Group of IAs and DAs referring to trade with 3rd countries – I semester of 2020
5. IA and DA referring to general and scope issues – II semester of 2020 and only if needed

Delegations were asked to reflect on the summary that was made available to them via CIRCA BC and, if needed, to carry out internal consultations with their national sector in this regard before the next COP in March. The EC will consult the sectorial associations for organics at the European level. During the next COP meeting it is expected that the final agreement on grouping and timing is confirmed.

Additionally the MSs were requested to clearly define until the next COP which delegated acts are in their opinion strictly necessary to be implemented before 1st January 2021, which ones are clearly not necessary by next 3 years. For this exercise, the EC explained that the drafting of DA and IA belonging to the same grouping will be carried out jointly.

Furthermore, since works on production rules have to start already, the EC requested the delegates to collect their national standards or where relevant private standards that may be helpful when drafting secondary legislation for this group. The EC ensured that also all elements that are currently not reflected in the new regulation but present in R. 834/2007 and R. 889/2008 will be analysed.

2. Issues to be covered for the next three years in an implementing act

Presented together with agenda item B.3.

3. Work programme related to the current legislation (backlog - annexes)

The Commission presented the main topics that will be covered in the backlog implementing act amending Regulation (EC) No 889/2008: feed for shrimps, baby food, derogations non organic pullets and protein feed, and Annexes I, II, VII and VIIIa.

The review of Annex IX will be done separately.

A working document will be put on CircaBC before the next COP meeting in March. MSs are invited to study this working document and send comments.

4. Authorisation of non –organic agricultural ingredients

The Commission presented a summary of the replies to the questionnaire that was sent to the MSs in November 2017. Main problems regarding the authorisation of non-organic agricultural ingredients were identified and discussed: availability (quantity, quality), agricultural origin of ingredients as well as extended prolongations of certain granted authorisations. MSs and EC agreed that there are some issues regarding these authorisations and that further discussions for improvements are necessary.

Delegations were asked to reflect on the summary table presenting all the answers to the questionnaire that was made available via CIRCA BC. During the next COP meeting, the discussion on how to improve the system will be continued.

MSs were also asked to provide for 15 March their proposals for additions or withdrawals to Annex IX of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008. Proposals for additions or withdrawals will have to be provided together with a full justification dossier at a later stage.

5. EU irregularities

1) Overview of notifications as per 10/01/2018

Overview by the Commission (period: from 10/11/2017 to 10/01/2018). Since the last meeting, some issues in certification (web shops, mineral water) were highlighted. Attention was drawn to notifications of certain

products (e.g. goji berries, chia seeds and wheat grass powder). Updates on previously discussed cases concerning specific MS (HR, IT).

- 2) Cases for presentation by the notified/notifying country/Member State and discussions
 - INEU 243, 256, 276 & 334/2017 DE-IT pesticide residues in chickpeas from Italy
Observations by the Commission, presentation by IT on the OFIS cases and on developments in relation to findings of Phosphonic acid and Fosetyl-Al.
 - INEU 350/2017 BE-NL, 349&344/2017 BE-DE, honey from China
Preliminary assessment by the Commission, highlighting the issue of a non-certified importer. Presentations by BE and DE concerning investigations. Intervention by the NL.

6. EGTOP

Presentation of the list of pending files to be taken into account in the next mandate. Two more requests were inserted in the list and a third will be added by the end of this week. The Committee took note of the amended mandate

7. Electronic Certificate of Inspection: exchange of views

An exchange of views on the implementation of the electronic certificate took place with the presence of colleagues from the TRACES Team (DG SANTE).

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

- 1) Entry into force of the Equivalence Agreement with Chile
The Commission updated the information as regards the Chilean control bodies which are already certifying products from different categories, in accordance to the agreement.
- 2) Workshop on the Plurilateral Arrangement, Viña del Mar (Chile), 5-8 December 2017
The Commission debriefed Member States about the outcome of the workshop
- 3) New requests for CB's recognition and co-reporters
The Commission informed Member States about the latest requests for recognition submitted by CBs and the appointment of co-reporters

9. Follow-up to irregularities and fraud allegations on imported products

Overview and analyses of irregularities notified in 2017.

10. Update on OFIS development

The Commission summarised the written contributions received from the Member States as regards possible future developments of OFIS.

11. Information on the *Risk of fraud in Organics* conference of 15 March 2018

12. Miscellaneous

1) Letters of interpretation relevant for the COP

The Commission presented a letter of interpretation relative to insects (Ares (2017)7059457). The letter is available to all MSs on CIRCA BC.

2) Follow-up on points raised at the last COP

- FR requested clarifications on whether the exemption of Article 28(2) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 regarding notification/controls would apply to "bio boxes" and "drive shops". The Commission quoted the conclusion of the judgement of the Court in case C-289/16 which emphasizes the fact that the sale occurs in the presence of both the operator or his sales personnel and the final consumer. As different situations may exist, the decision to apply or not the exemption should be done on a case by case basis.

- FI organic droner larvae (Ares (2017)5817080)

The Commission asked FI to provide more detailed rules on the method of production of such droner larvae, in particular how the drones were collected.

3) Frequently Asked Questions

The Commission explained that the work on FAQ document based on previous letters of interpretation is on-going. The objective in the long term is to make this document available on the website. In the meantime the Commission recalled that questions and letters of interpretation relevant for MSs are available in a dedicated folder on CIRCA BC.

4) IT - Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/2273 regarding derogations for the use of non-organic pullets and non-organic protein feed for porcine and poultry species.

IT is concerned that no whereas concerning the development of harmonised organic production rules for young poultry is included in the above mentioned Regulation and asked whether this meant that the Commission has changed his position regarding setting EU rules for organic production of pullets. The Commission confirmed to IT that its intention was to develop EU rules for such pullets.

5) IT & NL – the Official Control Regulation and the current rules

As from December 2019 the official controls regulation will enter into force and it will be compulsory to apply it, the scope being extended to organics. Specific provisions on organics foreseen in the OCR will be activated if necessary. The Commission invited delegated to send comments relative to each article of the OCR to be clarified.



Nathalie SAUZE-VANDEVYVER

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

MEMBER STATE	Ministry Or Organisation	NUMBER OF PERSONS
BE	Vlaamse Overheid-Departement Landbouw en Visserij	1
	SPW-Wallonie - DGARNE	1
BG	Ministry of Agriculture food and forestry	1
CZ	Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic	1
DK	Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark	2
DE	Representation of North-Rhine Westphalia to the EU	1
	Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung (Federal Office for Agriculture and Food)	1
	Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft	1
EE	Permanent Representation	1
IE	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	1
EL	Permanent Representation	1
ES	MAPAMA-Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment	1
	GENERALITAT VALENCIANA	1
FR	Ministry of Economy	1
	Ministère de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation- Ministry of agriculture	1
	INAO	1
HR	Permanent Representation	1
IT	MIPAAF - Ministero Politiche Agricole Alimentari Forestali	2
CY	-----	-----
LV	Ministry of Agriculture	1
LT	Permanent Representation	1
LU	Ministry of Agriculture / ASTA / Plant Protection Service	1
HU	Ministry of Agriculture	1
MT	Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change	1
NL	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	1

AT	Bundesministerium für Arbeit, Soziales, Gesundheit und Konsumentenschutz	1
PL	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	1
PT	DIREÇÃO-GERAL DE AGRICULTURA E DESENVOLVIMENTO RURAL	1
RO	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	1
SI	MAFF	1
SK	Central Control and Testing Institute in Agriculture	1
FI	Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira	1
SE	Swedish Board of Agriculture	1
	National Food Agency	1
UK	DEFRA	2
<i>ISL, CH, NOR</i>		
ISL	EFTA Secretariat	1
CH	Federal Office for Agriculture	1
NOR	Norwegian Food Safety Authority	1
	Ministry of Agriculture and Food	1
<i>TOTAL</i>		41