



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B. Quality, Research & Innovation, Outreach
The Director

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SUMMARY RECORD

Meeting of the Committee on Organic Productions

4, 5 and 6 June 2019

Chair: Mr. N. VERLET

Delegations present: All Member States were present, except Cyprus. Switzerland and Norway were present as observers.

A. PROPOSED MEASURES ON WHICH AN OPINION MAY BE REQUESTED

N/A

B. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Presentation and discussion on the Official Control Regulation

The Commission presented the key principles of the OCR (Regulation EU 625/2017) and the relevant articles of the two legal texts (new organic regulation and OCR) where coordinated action between the Commission Services is necessary (i.e. AGRI and SANTE)

2. Follow up to irregularities and fraud allegations in the EU

- Commission's position on handling alleged anthraquinone contaminations
- Commission's conclusions further to its requests for information and action
 - Synthetic antioxidants in fishfeed/fishflesh
 - Conventional yogurt labelled "bio"
 - 287/2018 ES-RO (253/2018 BG-ES) sunflower seeds from RO
 - 403/2017 DE-ES oil seed rape
 - 246/2018 HU-SK (215/2018 DE-HU) wheat from SK
 - 217/2018 SK - HU flax seed from HU

- 291/2017 DE-AT apple juice concentrate from Turkey
- 353/2018 DK-NL strawberry juice concentrate from Turkey
- 366/2018 ES-DE (BE, DE, FR, NL) honey from China
- Updates on EU Alerts
 - ALEU-3/2019 BE-FR bananas from Ecuador
 - ALEU-2/2019 NL-EU sesame seeds from India (INTC 86/2019)
 - ALEU-1/2019 BE-ES soy from Togo (INTC 110/2019)
- Commission’s brief overview of its new enquiries with individual Member States since the last meeting
 - INEU 216/2018 SI-HR (INEU 18/2017 IT-SI and INEU 28/2018 IT-SI), wheat and corn from HR
 - Recent cases involving rapeseed and wheat from HR, INEU-158/2019 DE-HR, INEU-130/2019 SI-HR, INEU-90/2019 SI-HR, INEU-89/2019 SI-HR, INEU-88/2019 SI-HR, INEU-86/2019 SI-HR

3. Audit programme in MS for 2019 / 2020

The Commission presented the audit programme in MS for the years 2019 (Croatia, Netherlands and Bulgaria) and 2020 (Spain, Estonia and Luxembourg).

4. Judgment C-497/17 on slaughtering in accordance with religious rites

COM informed the MS of the European Court of Justice judgment: the Court finds that the rules of EU law do not authorise the placing of the organic production logo of the European Union on products derived from animals which have been slaughtered in accordance with religious rites without first being stunned.

5. Interpretation letters

COM brought the attention to content of replies uploaded in CIRCA BC concerning : - Smoked paprika - use of inert iron in bolus feed for bovines - regional logo on wine – non organic corn cob - import certificate - art 45 use of treated non organic propagating material - postharvest treatments from TC - antraquinone in tea - juveniles used in aquaculture - heterogeneous material-organic label and use of bio logo - organic additives - silicon dioxide- definition of natural milk - RAS in salmon nursery - biodegradable plant plug out of scope- multivitamins food supplement - publication using bio logo.

In addition, COM presented cases of processed products containing micro-organisms/enzymes for discussion with respect to proper implementation of current provisions.

6. Discussions on Certificate, Article 29(8), Harmonisation of catalogues of measures

Article 29 (8) a)

The Commission presented the analysis of the general comments made from MS and stakeholders on the previous presentations on article 29 together with their responses to the specific questions. Furthermore, the Commission presented some preliminary conclusions on the need for establishing specific sampling rules for the organic production, the assessment of precautionary measures as part of the official investigation and the separation of the enforcement element.

In addition, the Commission opened the discussion on the following points:

- (i) Whether the articles 27, 28 and 29 should be treated as a package
- (ii) Whether the decision- making at the level of operator should be regulated

Catalogue of measures:

The Commission presented the analysis of the general comments made from MS and stakeholders on the previous presentations on the catalogue of measures together with their responses to the specific questions

The Commission addressed the questions regarding the purpose and objectives of the harmonisation exercise in the context of the new organic regulation (EU) 2018/848.

The Commission proposed revised criteria and classification of non-compliances and will adjust the matching of measures to categories of non-compliances.

Certificate

The EC presented the comments from MS and the stakeholders received after the last COP meeting. The EC made proposals on the list of activities for the box 4 of Annex VI, EU 2018/848, categories of products (box 6) and validity of certificate.

7. Presentation of other Implementing Acts related to control

Group of operators

The Commission presented the content of the IA under Art. 36(4) and the relevant provisions in the basic act.

The EC presented also background information and challenges as regards group of operators based on some practical examples and literature available in this regard. Discussion on this subject will continue at the next meetings.

8. Discussion on the IA consolidated draft on production rules

COM presented the latest draft of the IA and its annexes on production.

9. EGTOP and work plan for cleaning and disinfection

COM presented the state of play and discussed the work on Annex VII on cleaning and disinfection

10. Clarification of the basic act on production rules

COM provided clarifications on the articulation between Regulation 2018/848 and national rules (Whereas 58 and Article 20).

COM DG MARE provided clarification with respect to the provisions related to certified sustainable fishery laid down in point 3.1.1. of Annex 2 Part III of Regulation 2018/848.

Following up on a discussion which occurred in COP of March 2019 to address the remaining comments received by MS, COM proposed some cultivation schemes to clarify the conversion provisions of parcels with respect to mother plant and parent plant in production of organic plant reproductive materials.

11. TRACES / CoI

The future developments of the IT tools, mostly related to the introduction of the digital signature, were discussed.

12. International issues

The Commission informed concerning the ongoing work of assessment of the Annual Reports submitted by the CBs.

13. Risks and challenges for monitoring and control of imported products, global perspective and way forward

14. Consolidated draft following the CIS of the IA on annexes

Commission presented the updated version of the document and discussed the MS comments

15. AOB

San Marino: Information about the proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be taken by the European Union in the Cooperation Committee established by the Agreement on Cooperation and Customs Union between the European Economic Community and the Republic of San Marino with regard to applicable provisions on organic production and labelling of organic products, and arrangements for imports of organic products.

(e-signed)

Nathalie SAUZE- VANDEVYVER

List of participants– Summary Record
Meeting of the Committee on Organic Production
4, 5 and 6 June 2019

MEMBER STATE	Ministry Or Organisation	NUMBER OF PERSONS
BE	SPW - DGO3	1
	Vlaamse Overheid Departement Landbouw en Visserij	2
BG	Ministry of Agriculture	1
CZ	Ministry of Agriculture	1
DK	Danish Veterinary and Food Administration	2
DE	Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft (BMEL)	1
	LANUV	1
	Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung	1
EE	Ministry of Rural Affairs	1
IE	The Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine	2
EL	PR	1
	Ministry of Rural Development and Food	1
ES	Ministry of Agriculture	1
	Generalitat valenciana	1
FR	Ministère de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation	1
	INAO	3
	DGCCRF	1
HR	Ministry of Agriculture	2
IT	MIPAAFT	2
CY		
LV	Ministry of Agriculture	1
	Permanent Representation	1
LT	Ministry of Agriculture	1
LU	Administration des Services Techniques de l'Agriculture	1
HU	Ministry of Agriculture	1
MT	Agriculture Directorate	1
NL	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	1
	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Klimate (RVO.nl)	1
AT	BMASGK	1
	AGES	1
	BMNT	1
PL	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	2
PT	DGADR	1
RO	Ministry of Agriculture	1
SI	MAFF	2
SK	Central control and testing institute in agriculture	1
FI	Finnish Food Authority	2
SE	Swedish Board of Agriculture	1
	National Food Agency	1
UK	DEFRA	2
NO	Norwegian Food Safety	1
	Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food	1
CH	Federal Office for Agriculture	1

