



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 129th meeting of the Committee on Organic Production of 02-03 December 2015

President: Diego CANGA FANO

25 Member States were present. Cyprus and Malta were represented. Norway was present as observer.

Section A – Opinion of the Committee

- 1. 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 (Ares(2015)4401239)**

The document presented by the Commission received a favourable opinion from the Committee by unanimity (**27 MS in favour, Portugal not represented**).

Section B – Points for information and/or discussion

- 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 an electronic certificate of inspection**

A discussion took place on a new working document.

- 2. Draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 as regards substances: Annex II, VI & VIII**

The Commission explained the latest modifications based on the opinion of the Commission Legal Service. A final internal consultation and TBT notification will be launched before the end of December so that the vote can take place as soon as the TBT commenting period finished.

3. Overview of the audits carried out by the Food and Veterinary Office on organic production and labelling of organic products

The Commission informed delegates that three reports are being finalised, covering the audits carried out in the MS, recognised Third Countries and recognised control bodies for import of organic products into the EU. They will be made available and discussed in the Committee on 20 January.

4. Pesticide residue testing in organic production

The Commission presented the report, made available in CIRCABC, with the analysis of the replies to a questionnaire on pesticide residue testing in organic production in the EU. It forms part of a project that also includes audits in five MS: the final report will be discussed in the Committee before the summer break.

5. Supervision of laboratories

Poland made a presentation.

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

The Commission provided an overview of notifications between 25/8/2015 and 3/11/2015.

Individual cases discussed

- INEU 51/2015 BE-NL (yellow peas)
- INEU 204/2015, INEU 160/2015 DE-SK, INEU 177/2015 CY-SK (rapeseed)

Follow up of cases previous discussed in COP – assessment by the Commission

- OFIS EU 336/2014 (OFIS) 1394 FR - PT (honey/certification)
- OFIS 373/2014 (OFIS 1466) NL-BG (strawberry leaves)
- INEU 21/2015 FR-IT (apple puree), INEU 58/2015 FR-IT (tomato concentrate)
- 198/2013 (OFIS 1038) BE-IT (certification status)
- INEU 142/2015 CZ-ES (lemons)

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

1. Overview of notifications as per 09/11/2015: 26 new notifications since 05/10/2015.
2. Cases for presentation by the notifying Member State and discussion
 - a. 108/2015 - NL – yellow peas from Russia

- b. 136/2015 - NL – lentils from Turkey
 - c. 123/2015 - DE – lime from Egypt
 - d. 127/2015 – AT – spelt from Ukraine
 - e. 76/2015 – DE – chia seeds from Paraguay
3. Feed imports from Ukraine and neighbouring countries - Developing special control guidelines

The Committee adopted guidelines on additional official controls on organic products imported from Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Russian Federation.

8. EGTOP

The Commission presented the programme of the first semester of 2016 and informed on the reports to be published, the meeting to be held with experts and the changes in the dossier templates.

9. Reporting of operators to EUROSTAT and in annual reports under MANCPs

This point was not presented

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

- a) Canada: on-the-spot visit carried out on 26-30 October in the framework of the Canadian request to extend the scope of the equivalence arrangement to imported products and the EU request to extend the scope to organic wine
The Commission informed MS about the findings of the visit.
- b) Overview on third countries

Miscellaneous¹

- OFIS irregularity reporting modules

The Commission presented its proposals for improvements.

- National catalogue of measures

The Commission gave an overview of the state of play on the basis of Member States' responses.


p.o. Hans BARTH
Diego CANGA FANO

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 Committee on Organic Production.

Annex: List of participants

List of participants
Committee on Organic Production of 02 & 03 December 2015

Country	Organisation	Participants
BELGIUM	VLAAMSE OVERHEID, AFDELING DUURZAME LANDBOUWONTWIKKELING	1
BULGARIA	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD	1
CZECH REPUBLIC	PERMANENT REPRESENTATION	1
DENMARK	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOOD	2
GERMANY	BUNDESANSTALT FÜR LANDWIRTSCHAFT UND ERNÄHRUNG – BLE	3
	BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR ERNÄHRUNG LANDWIRTSCHAFT UND VERBRAUCHERSCHUTZ - BMELV	
	LANDESAMT FÜR NATUR, UMWELT UND VERBRAUCHERSCHUTZ NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN	
ESTONIA	MINISTRY OF RURAL AFFAIRS	1
IRELAND	DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND THE MARINE	1
GREECE	PERMANENT REPRESENTATION	1
SPAIN	MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA, ALIMENTACIÓN Y MEDIO AMBIENTE – SUBDIR. GEN. DE CALIDAD DIFERENCIADA Y AGRICULTURA ECOLÓGICA	1
FRANCE	MINISTÈRE DE L'AGRICULTURE, DE L'AGROALIMENTAIRE ET DE LA FORÊT	3
	DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DE LA CONCURRENCE, DE LA CONSOMMATION ET DE LA RÉPRESSION DES FRAUDES	
	INAO	
CROATIA	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	1
ITALY	MINISTERO DELLE POLITICHE AGRICOLE ALIMENTARI E FORESTALI – UFFICIO PQAL1 – AGRICOLTURA BIOLOGICA	2
CYPRUS	-	-
LATVIA	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	1
LITHUANIA	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	1
LUXEMBOURG	MINISTÈRE DE L'AGRICULTURE, DE LA VITICULTURE ET DE LA PROTECTION DES CONSOMMATEURS	1
HUNGARY	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE – DEPARTMENT OF FOOD CHAIN CONTROL	1
MALTA	-	-

Country	Organisation	Participants
NETHERLANDS	MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS	2
AUSTRIA	BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR GESUNDHEIT (BMG) INSTITUTE OF ORGANIC FARMING AND FARM ANIMAL BIODIVERSITY	2
POLAND	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	1
PORTUGAL	-	-
ROMANIA	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	1
SLOVENIA	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FOOD	1
SLOVAKIA	PERMANENT REPRESENTATION	1
FINLAND	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY	1
SWEDEN	SWEDISH BOARD OF AGRICULTURE NATIONAL FOOD AGENCY – FOOD STANDARDS DEPARTMENT	2
UNITED KINGDOM	DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS	2
EFTA	-	-
ICELAND	-	-
NORWAY	NORWEGIAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY	1
SWITZERLAND	-	-