



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

*Tuesday 13 March 2018
Wednesday 14 March 2018*

Chair: **Nicolas VERLET**

Delegations present: All Member States were present, except Cyprus.

A. PROPOSED MEASURES ON WHICH AN OPINION MAY BE REQUESTED

N/A

B. POINTS FOR INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION

1. Authorisation of non-organic agricultural ingredients

The European Commission presented the summary of requests for withdrawals and requests for additions to Annex IX to Regulation 889/2008. The presentation was not complete due to the fact that only 13 MSs and NO provided their positions in this regards. All other MSs were requested to provide their positions as soon as possible so that they can be also included in the summary tables. These summary tables will be used as basis for the discussion on the update of Annex IX. When all the requests are provided, the European Commission will upload the presentation on CIRCA BC for comments that MSs can send in until 29 March 2018. The discussion will be continued at the next COP.

2. Working document: back-log implementing acts on current legislation

The working document was discussed. Several Member States made comments. The Commission gave clarifications and gave a deadline for comments: 29 March 2018

3. Organic reform: delegated and implementing acts - groupings by themes and timeline

Based on MS' and stakeholders' input, the European Commission suggested the final timetable for works on the secondary legislation for the reform that was accepted by the COP members. It was also clarified which empowerments exactly fall under which thematic group. The presentation was uploaded on CIRCA BC.

4. Organic reform: delegated and implementing acts on production rules - identification of the needs

Based on MSs and stakeholders input, the European Commission presented which empowerments from the thematic group 'production rules' are going to be activated during the upcoming works on the secondary legislation for the reform. The presentation was uploaded on CIRCA BC.

5. Letters of interpretation relevant for the COP

The letter on conversion of mushroom mycelium showed that several practices were applied in the Member States, but that no Member State considered it possible to do a conversion.

6. EGTOP

The activities of the food group was reported, a list of pending requests was presented by the Commission. The Commission asked all Member States to send requests that were not yet in that list to the Commission by 29 March. Only those requests will be taken into account in the planning for 2018

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

- 1) Overview of notifications as per 3 March 2018, debriefing the Committee of developments and exchanges
The Commission gave an overview of irregularities reported within the period between 10 January and 3 March. The Commission also debriefed the Committee of exchanges with individual Member States within the same period and highlighted the risk of undeclared, unauthorised substances in technical inputs used in organic farming.
- 2) Annual overview (2017) of EU irregularities and fraud allegations
Presentation by the Commission and discussions.
- 3) Cases for presentation by the notified/notifying country and discussions:
 - INEU 6/2018 BE-DE, mineral water
The topic of certification of water, not within the scope of organic legislation, was discussed at the initiative of Belgium.

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

- 1) Overview of INTC notifications as per 19/02/2018
- 2) Cases presented by the notifying Member State and discussion
 - a. 34/2018 – UK – bananas from Dominican Republic
 - b. 420/2017 – NL – bananas from Dominican Republic
 - c. 422//2017 – DE – soy cake from China
 - d. 413/2017 – FR – lentils from Turkey

9. Electronic certificate of inspection: exchange of views

An exchange of views took place between the Commission and the Member States

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

The Commission informed Member States about organic hydroponic and aquaponics production in the United States and reminded Member States that the CBs annual reports have uploaded to CIRCABC and that co-reporters have six weeks to assess them and send comments.

11. Miscellaneous

- a. Poultry houses and building in the framework of Regulation 834/2007

COM clarified that under the current regulation the concept of "poultry house" is the same as "building for poultry" with an upper limit of 3000 hens by poultry house (= by building). The stocking density of 6 hens by square meter has anyway, to be respected.

- b. Request to use carnauba wax as post-harvest treatment for certain imported citrus.

COM explained that the urgent request cannot be accepted as there are many doubts about the necessity of using that wax. That doubts have to be clarified and considered in a correct and transparent way.

< e-signed >

Nathalie SAUZE-VANDEVYVER

List of participants– Summary Record
Meeting of the
COMMITTEE ON ORGANIC PRODUCTION
13-14 MARCH 2018

MEMBER STATE	Ministry Or Organisation	NUMBER OF PERSONS	
		13 MARCH 2018	14 MARCH 2018
BE	Vlaamse overheid, Departement Landbouw en Visserij	1	1
	SPW - DG Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment	1	1
BG	Ministry of agriculture, food and forestry	1	1
CZ	Ministry of Agriculture	1	1
DK	Ministry of Environment and Food, Agriculture Agency	1	1
	Ministry of Environment and Food, The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration	1	1
DE	Federal office for Agriculture and Food	1	1
	Ministry of Environment, Agriculture, Conservation and Consumer Protection of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia	1	1
EE	Ministry of Rural Affairs	1	1
IE	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	1	1
EL	Permanent Representation	1	----
ES	MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA Y PESCA, ALIMENTACIÓN Y MEDIO AMBIENTE	1	1
	GENERALITAT VALENCIANA	1	1
FR	Ministere de l'Agriculture et de l'alimentation	2	2
	Direction Générale de la Concurrence, Consommation et Répression des Fraudes	1	1
	INAO	1	1
HR	Ministry of Agriculture	1	1
IT	Ministry of Agriculture	2	2
CY	----	----	----
LV	Ministry of Agriculture of Latvia	1	1
LT	Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania, Agricultural Resources and Quality Department	1	1
LU	Administration des services techniques de l'agriculture	1	1
HU	Ministry of Agriculture	1	1

MT	Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change	1	1
NL	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	1	1
AT	Bundesministerium für Arbeit, Soziales, Gesundheit und Konsumentenschutz,(BMASGK)	1	1
	BMNT	1	1
PL	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	1	1
	Main Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection	2	2
PT	DGADR - Direção Geral de Agricultura e Desenvolvimento Rural	1	1
RO	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	2	2
SI	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food	1	1
SK	Central Control and Testing Institute in Agriculture	1	1
FI	Evira, Finnish Food Safety Authority	1	1
SE	National Food Agency	1	1
	Swedish Board of Agriculture	1	1
UK	DEFRA	2	2
EFTA	----	----	----
ISL	----	----	----
NOR	Norwegian Food Safety Authority	1	1
	Ministry of Agriculture and Food	1	1
CH	Bundesamt für Landwirtschaft, Bern, Schweiz	1	1
<i>TOTAL</i>		44	43