



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 Production

14 & 15 October 2019

Chair: Nicolas Verlet

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

A. PROPOSED MEASURES ON WHICH AN OPINION MAY BE REQUESTED

A.1. Implementing Regulation (EU) amending Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation No 837/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control (D059744)

The measure received a unanimous positive opinion.

The summary of the Feed back mechanism was read out and discussed.

Linguistic comments will be accepted until the end of this week.

B. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

B.1. Commission Implementing Regulation on control rules relative to Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) 834/2007 – PLAN/2018/3297

- Article 28(3)(a) Precautionary measures
- Article 29(8)(a) Methodology for detection and evaluation of non-authorised products and substances
- Article 38(9)(a)(d) Additional rules on official controls

- Article 36(4)(a)(b)(c) Group of operators
- Article 41(5) Uniform arrangements in relation to non-compliance (catalogue of measures)
- Article 38(b)(c) Additional rules on official controls

The Commission on 18 September 2019 sent to the Member States the draft implementing act on controls (by uploading it on CIRCA BC). During the meeting, the Commission presented comments received from the Member States and stakeholders to this draft implementing act. The Member States may provide their further comments until 21 October. A revised implementing act will be ready before the next COP meeting.

The Commission presented also some new proposals on the elements that in the draft implementing act sent to the Member States on 18 September were missing. The draft legal text for these missing parts will be sent to the Member States in few days following this meeting. Consequently, at the next COP meeting the complete draft implementing act on controls will be available.

Discussion will continue at the next meetings.

The Commission will upload presentations and summary of comments received on CIRCA BC after the meeting.

B.2. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) .../... of XXXX amending Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control (PLAN/2018/3290; D059744)

Review of the annex on cleaning and disinfectant (Annex VII) – state of play and information on the Biocidal product Regulation (EU) No 528/2012

Timelines, results of the lists of new substances were discussed. An approach was presented by the Commission.

B.3. EGTOP

Future group meetings and mandate for the next food group was presented.

B.4. Secondary legislation on labelling

A presentation was made to the MS with the aim of identifying the necessary secondary legislation on labelling. The presentation includes a comparison between the currently applicable provisions and the future ones. Most of the provisions are already included in the basic act and, at this time, only few minor provisions should be included in an implementing act. MS were asked to comment by written this preliminary analysis.

B.5. Presentation by IFOAM of the research project Liveseed (EU-router data base)

A presentation was given by two researchers of FIBL Germany focused on the applicability of a EU Router Database on organic plant reproductive material to exchange of information among MS and facilitate suppliers download.

B.6. Letters of interpretation

COM informed on the publication of FAQ document at the following address on the EU organic webpage:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/farming/organic-farming/organics-glance_en#documents

COM brought the attention to the content of recent replies uploaded in CIRCA BC concerning: use of microwave, yeast revised reply, fence material, Christmas tree and rooibos plant reproductive material rules, UV application, olive oil follow up letter, mushroom substrate, use of logo and labelling provisions, organic manure provisions under Reg.2018/848, Article 53 of Regulation 1107/2009. Moreover, COM asked MS views on two relevant issues concerning possible use of a specific yeast product and use of conventional straw in organic production.

B.7. Irregularities EU and INTC

EU Irregularities and Alerts as of 20 September 2019

Updates

The following cases were discussed to highlight developments, conclusions and request for action.

- Synthetic antioxidants in marine ingredients for organic fish feed, fish feed, and fish. The Commission reconfirmed its conclusions¹ in view of joint statement by NO, the UK, IE. Discussions also covered these countries' action plan and their results from official controls.
- INEU 287/2018 ES-RO (253/2018 BG-ES) sunflower seeds
- INEU00518 DE-RO, marketing of products
- INEU 366/2018 ES-BE-DE-NL, honey from China
- INEU 246/2018 HU-SK (215/2018 DE-HU), wheat
- INEU 217/2018 SK-HU, flax seed
- INEU 353/2018 DK-NL, imports
- INEU 291/2017 DE-AT, apple juice from Turkey

¹ Ares(2019)4081526 - 27/06/2019

- INEU 167/2019 FR-ES, multi-fruit juice

New enquiries

The Commission explained the rationale behind some of its new enquiries.

- Bulgarian products/operators, CB and CA practices
- Croatian products/operators, CB and CA practices
- INEU 392/2018, HR-HU, elderflower
- INEU 362/2018, DE-EE & INEU-59/2019 EE-FR, honey
- INEU 190/2019 NL-NO, salmon
- INEU 203/2019 NL-AT, limes
- ALEU 11/2019 UK-EU, certificate
- INEU 145/2019 PL-DE, herbal extract
- INEU 217/2019, BE-NL, malted grain
- INEU 176/2019, DE-PL, hulled millet
- INEU 230/2019 IT-EE & 249/2019 EE-LV, buckwheat
- INEU 311/2019, NL-FI, avocados

B.8. TRACES

The Commission presented the latest developments done and foresee in TRACES and the situation related to the exercise of enrolment for entities in order to be able to use the e-Seal for COIs. Discussions took place related to these two aspects.

B.9. International

The Commission informed the Committee about its intention to submit to vote in the Committee of November a proposal of Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) 1235/2008.

The Committee had an exchange on possible renewal of the Guidelines on additional controls that will expire end of 2019.

The Commission provided a feedback of the annual meeting with Control and Accreditation bodies that took place in Brussels on the 7th and 8th October.

B.10. AOB and conclusions

(e-signed)

Nathalie SAUZE- VANDEVYVER

List of participants– Summary Record
Meeting of the Committee on Organic Production
14 & 15 October 2019

Member State	Ministry Or Organisation	Number of persons
BE	SPW - DG Agriculture, Natural Resources & Environment	1
	Vlaamse Overheid Departement Landbouw en Visserij	1
BG	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry	1
CZ	Ministry of Agriculture	1
DK	Danish Veterinary and Food Administration	1
	Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark – The Danish Agricultural Agency	1
DE	Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft	2
	Landesamt für Natur, Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz (LANUV)	1
EE	Ministry of Rural Affairs	1
IE	The Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine	2
EL	Permanent Representation	1
ES	Ministerio de agricultura, pesca y alimentación	2
FR	Ministère de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation	1
	INAO	2
	DGPE	1
HR	Permanent Representation	1
IT	MIPAAFT	2
CY	Permanent Representation	1
LV	Ministry of Agriculture	1
LT	Ministry of Agriculture	1
LU	Administration des Services Techniques de l'Agriculture	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
	Ministry of Economic Affairs and climate control	1
AT	AGES	1
	BMNT	1
PL	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	1
	Polish centre for Accreditation	1
PT	DGADR	1
RO	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	1
SI	MAFF	1
SK	Central control and testing institute in agriculture	1
FI	Permanent Representation	2
SE	Swedish Board of Agriculture	1
	National Food Agency	1
UK	DEFRA	2
NO	Norwegian Food Safety	1
CH	Mission of Switzerland to the EU	1