



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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

Brussels,
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SUMMARY RECORD

Meeting of the Committee on Organic Production

3 and 4 March 2020

Chair: Nathalie Sauze-Vandervyver, Nicolas Verlet

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

A. PROPOSED MEASURES ON WHICH AN OPINION MAY BE REQUESTED

A.1. Commission Implementing Regulation laying down certain rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the documents needed for the retroactive recognition of periods for the purpose of conversion, the production of organic products and

25 Member States voted in favour, 0 against, 2 abstained. One Member State was absent and represented.

A.2. Commission Implementing Regulation 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 – PLAN/2020/6518

The Commission agreed to postpone a vote by written procedure

B. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR FOR INFORMATION

B.1. Expected time frame for the adoption of the Implementing Acts related to Regulation (EU) 2018/848

The Commission presented the main procedural steps needed for the adoption of the Implementing Acts and their respective expected time frame for adoption.

B.2. 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

- Precautionary measures: Article 28(3)

The Commission informed the delegates that the rules on how the operators shall substantiate the suspicion of non-compliance due to the presence of non-authorised products or substances have been removed from the current text of the IA.

- Measures to be taken in the event of the presence of non-authorised substances: Article 29(8)

The Commission presented a set of rules for the investigation by the competent authorities or control authorities or control bodies of the presence of non-authorised products or substances.

- Group of Operators: Article 36(4)

The Commission presented the new version of the rules for the maximum size of the groups, the requirements for ICS documents and records keeping, the list of information that the ICS manager shall notify to the competent authority, control authority or control body and the transitional period

- Additional rules on control: Article 38(9)

The Commission presented the new version of the minimum control requirements for both individual operators and group of operators

- Additional rules on action in case of non-compliance: Article 41(5)

The Commission presented the new version of the rules for the uniform arrangements in case of non-compliances which has kept only the three columns of the proposed template for the catalogue of measures.

B.3. OFIS - Annex XIIIc

The Commission presented a solution for an easier upload in OFIS IT system of the MANCP organic data with the use of an Excel predefined table starting

from the beginning of April 2020. The aim was to solve some technical problems faced in OFIS with the upload of the data referred to in Annex XIIIc of Commission Regulation 889/2008.

The Commission presented the state of play of the annual reports under the Multi Annual Control Plan (MANCP) regarding the submission and COM assessment of the reports for 2018.

B.4. OFIS irregularities INTC

The Commission presented the Member States with some points and issues aimed at improving the work efficiency on the notifications of irregularities from third countries.

B.5. EGTOP

- Presentations of the two 2019 EGTOP final reports on food/feed and aquaculture
- Cleaning and disinfection: presentation of the next steps
- Latest requests by Ms
- Salt: the Commission Decision including the names of the 4 selected salt experts should be adopted on 19 March 2020.

B.6. Commission Implementing Regulation for the recognition of control authorities and control bodies under compliance

- The Commission presented a revised version of its implementing act describing the procedures to be followed by CBs and CrTA for their future recognition under the regime of compliance

B.7. Commission Implementing Regulation laying down rules for the certificate of operators under compliance, list of equivalent control bodies and equivalent third countries

- The Commission presented the first draft containing the main elements of the certificate of operators located in third countries that will be developed on the basis of the empowerment of Article 45(4) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848. The Commission will share the implementing act with Member States for their comments.
- The Commission presented the first draft of Implementing Act based on Articles 48(3) and 57(2) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 on establishing a list of recognised third countries and a list of recognised control authorities and control bodies for the purpose of equivalence and their

possible amendments in the transitional period. The Commission will share the implementing act with Member States for their comments.

B.8. Other International issues

The Commission debriefed delegations about the outcome of the mission that took place in India. During that mission, a meeting took place with the IN competent authorities in order to debrief them on the impact of the Reform on the trade with India and to get the confirmation that IN is interested to embark in a future trade agreement on organics. The Commission also debriefed the delegations on the audit that took place in India at the recently recognised Biocert International Pvt. (BIO 177).

B.9. Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation concerning the authorisation of products and substances for use in organic production – PLAN/2018/3293

A document containing the draft annexes on feed, feed additives, oenological practices for wine and non-organic agricultural ingredients was presented and the few changes in comparison to current legislation were highlighted. MS were invited to send written comments, if any.

B.10. Authorisation of non-organic agricultural ingredients for processed organic food by Member States

The existing and future requirements to authorise non-organic agricultural ingredients were presented. These legal requirements were extensively explained following legal clarifications. A list of possible information to be provided to grant such authorisation was presented and MS were invited to send written comments.

B.11. Questionnaire on feed

Presentation of replies received from MS. These replies confirm that the mention “*may be used in organic farming*” is often used to label certain processed feed and that the operators producing such feed are certified and controlled. The Commission will explore with the lawyers the possible solutions following the absence of specific legal provisions to use such labelling after the 1st January 2021.

B.12. Letters of interpretation production rules

The Commission brought the attention to the content of recent replies uploaded in CIRCA BC concerning: non organic agricultural ingredients, clarifications on various new provisions mainly soil, ornamentals and herbs, import products and pesticides treatment and MRLs default level, post harvest of rice with CO₂ and kieselgur, chlorate in water treatments and consequent

potential products contamination, labelling fertilisers with reference to organic, coformulants evolution of rules in 848, veranda poultry clarification transitional provisions, labelling hunting and fishing, GM techniques genome editing prohibited, labelling salt, kainite.



Nathalie SAUZE- VANDEVYVER

List of participants– Summary Record

Meeting of the Committee on Organic Production

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MEMBER STATE	Ministry Or Organisation	NUMBER OF PERSONS
BE	SPW Wallonie	1
BG	Permanent Representation	1
CZ	Ministry of Agriculture	1
DK	Danish Veterinary and Food Administration	2
	Danish Agricultural Agency	1
DE	Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung	3
	Landesamt für Natur, Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz	1
EE	Ministry of Rural Affairs	1
IE	DAFM	2
EL	P.R.	2
ES	Comunidad Autonoma del Pais Vasco	1
	Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentacion	2
FR	INAO	2
	Ministère de l’Agriculture et de l’Alimentation	1
	Ministère de l’Economie	1
	Ministry of Finance	1
HR	Ministry of Agriculture	2
IT	MIPAAF	2
CY	P.R.	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		
NL	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Control	1
AT	AGES	1
	BMNT	1
PL	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	1
		1
PT	DGADR	1

RO	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development P.R.	1 1
SI	MAFF	1
SK	Central Control and Testing Institute in Agriculture	1
FI	Finnish Food Authority	2
SE	Swedish Board of Agriculture	2
NO	Norwegian Food Safety Authority	1