



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* *Meeting via videoconference (Webex)* *on 4, 5 and 6 May 2021*

Chair: Elena PANICHI

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

#### **A. PROPOSED MEASURES ON WHICH AN OPINION MAY BE REQUESTED**

N/A

#### **B. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR FOR INFORMATION**

##### **B.1. Production rules – discussions on working documents**

The commission presented a summary of comments on the presentation on plant reproductive material under Regulation (EU) 2018/848 - COM presented the responses received from Member States mainly on seedlings with options for future actions to ensure a harmonised approach. Member States have been invited to send final comments by 25 May 2021

Working documents on different subjects were presented and discussed with Member States.

##### **B.2. Letters of interpretation and other issues (production rules, international sector)**

COM briefly referred to the content of recent uploaded letters concerning: provisions of article 9 on parallel production, specific case of parallel production of mushroom, use of logo in schoolbook and small size label, microgreens, RAS in salmon, microalgae lack of fertilisers, databases and platform under Article 26 of Reg.2018/848, use of self-produced seeds, responsibility in record keeping for subcontractors, young poultry definition, use of choline chloride in feed, treatment of Varroa with organic acids, milk

anti-regurgitation or enriched in minerals and vitamins for young children, importer from Northern Ireland, split into two vessels .

### **B.3. EGTOP**

Com presented the latest state of play concerning EGTOP meetings, reports and the future call for experts

### **B.4. Feed-back Mechanism COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) .../...of XXX authorising certain products and substances for use in organic production (PLAN/2020/7799; D067068)**

The COM presented an overview of the comments received via the feedback mechanism and the minor modifications introduced in the annexes of the draft implementing Regulation following the inter-services consultation and the comments from the feedback. The COM informed the MS on the time table for a vote end of June 2021.

### **B.5. Information from the Commission on the state of play of the implementing acts on production rules**

COM referred to an excel table giving the list of implementing acts published and on going on production rules.

### **B.6. First discussions on potential implementing act on record keeping (previous provisions of Article 66 of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008)**

The COM presented for the first time a draft Commission Implementing Regulation providing details and specifications regarding certain records and declarations required from operators of organic products (PLAN/2021/11099). MS were asked to send their written comments before the 25 May.

### **B.7. Electronic certificate of operators-TRACES**

The COM presented, for the first time, a draft Commission Implementing Regulation defining the requirements according to which the competent authorities, or, where appropriate, control authorities or control bodies, will provide a certificate to any operator or group of operators that attests compliance with the rules on organic production through the IT system TRACES.

The COM also presented to MS delegates the initial phase of the development of the electronic certification system of organic operators in the EU and Third Countries. The MS are invited to send in their comments on the proposed draft article and the presentation of the TRACES system by 25 May 2021

**B.8. COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) amending section 9 of the part II of the annex of Regulation (EU) 2019/723 regarding the organic data in the Annual Reports to be submitted by each Member State in accordance with Article 113(1) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 (PLAN/2020/8329; D071233)**

The COM presented the latest version of the act and the annex currently under ISC and informed the MS that the ISC will end on 10/05/2021 and immediately after the feedback mechanism will follow. Once the feedback mechanism is completed the MS will receive the final version before the written vote and they will be requested to send their written comments.

**B.9. Approval and accreditation of control bodies/interpretation of provisions of new Regulation**

n/a

**B.10. COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) .../... of XXX establishing the lists of third countries, control authorities and control bodies recognised for the purpose of equivalence under Article 33(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 (PLAN/2021/10211; D070929)**

COM informed delegations about the in-preparation IA which will gather both Annex III and IV CBs lists currently enshrined in the Regulation (EC) 1235/2008, bearing in mind that that Regulation will be repealed by the end of the year.

**B.11. COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) .../... of XXX laying down rules on documents and notifications required for organic products intended for imports into the Union (PLAN/2021/10567; D072154); (Certificate of Inspection, BCP issue)**

The COM presented the latest version of the act and the annex taking into account the comments of MS. The ISC will be launched next week.

**B.12. Imports of sesame seeds from India**

The COM briefed Member States on this matter. The COM will inform Member State on the way forward.

**B.13. Guidelines for additional controls (as a follow-up point and also in relation to the inclusion of sesame seeds)**

COM informed delegations that actions are ongoing in order to supervise future import of sesame seeds. To this purpose, COM is preparing guidelines. MS were not in favour of widening too much the guidelines to many commodities. Some flexibility is foreseen in the guidelines as regard the sampling requirements, in order to take into account the current COVID situation.

**B.14. E-seal – state of play of the enrolment procedure for EU Member States, and for Annex III and Annex IV under R. 1235/2008**

The COM provided information as regards the status of the enrolment procedure for the E-seal. The COM informed MS that wish to advance as quick as possible to ensure that by the end of 2021 all the actors are enrolled in the system and are able to use the E-seal. This approach is needed to ensure that the system could work smoothly in view of the legal obligation to use the E-seal which will enter into force on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022.

**B.15. International issues**

TBT New Zealand

The COM informed that NZ launched a TBT notification to collect views on a discussion paper on the new proposed legislation on organics. The document is available for MS comments, if any, in CIRCABC.

**B.16. Action Plan for the Development of Organic Production: Presentation and discussion**

The COM presented the Action Plan for the Development of Organic Production (COM/2021/141), which was broadly welcomed by the MS, and replied to questions from the MS.

**B.17. Non-conformities, OFIS EU, OFIS INTC**

The COM debriefed Member States on ongoing analysis of non conformities detected both in Member States and in third countries..

**B.18. Letter in preparation on OFIS/TRACES data entry**

The COM announced that a letter will be sent to the MS on a range of issues concerning the manner in which data are entered and managed in the OFIS and TRACES databases that would need to be addressed to ensure the continued robustness of the control system.

**B.19. Recent requests to delete signatures in boxes 20 and/or 21 of the COI**

The COM informed the MS about the recently increasing number of requests regarding the clearance of the information in boxes 20 and 21 of the COI.

**B.20. Proposal to create Working Group on irregularities**

The COM proposed the establishment of a dedicated working group involving the COM and the MS on non-compliances in organic production, which the MS broadly supported.

**B.21. AOB**

The COM informed the MS about the recent judgment of the ECJ on lithothamnium used in soja-drinks (Case C-815/19).

The COM informed the MS about the next steps on the issue of veterinary medicines and withdrawal period; COM explained that several questions raised by MS related in particular to flavoured waters and products and substances used in livestock production are still being examined by the COM and will be addressed in written replies.



Nathalie SAUZE- VANDEVYVER

List of participants– Summary Record  
**MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON ORGANIC PRODUCTION**  
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*on 4, 5 and 6 May 2021*

MEMBER STATE	MINISTRY OR ORGANISATION	NUMBER OF PERSONS
BE	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	2
	SPW ARNE	1
	FAVV AFSCA	1
	Customs authority	1
BG	Ministry of Agriculture Food and Forestry	3
CZ	Ministry of Agriculture	2
DK	Ministry of Environment and Food	1
	Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark - Danish Veterinary and Food Administration	2
DE	Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung	1
	Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft	3
	Landesamt für Natur, Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz (LANUV)	1
EE	Ministry of Rural Affairs	2
IE	DAFM	2
EL	Ministry of Rural Development and Food	2
ES	MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA, PESCA Y ALIMENTACIÓN	3
FR	INAO - Pôle Bio	1
	INAO - Service Contrôles	2
	Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation / DPMA	1
	Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation / DGPE	2

	DGCCRF Ministère de l'Economie	1
HR	Ministry of Agriculture	2
IT	MIPAAF	5
CY	Ministry of Agriculture Rural Development and Environment	1
LV	Ministry of Agriculture	2
LT	Ministry of Agriculture	1
LU	Administration des services techniques de l'agriculture	3
HU	Ministry of Agriculture	1
MT	Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights	2
NL	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Control	1
	RVO	1
PL	Main Inspectorate of Agriculture and Food Quality	1
	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	1
PT	DGADR - Direção Geral de Agricultura e Desenvolvimento Rural	1
RO	MADR	2
SI	Administration for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection	1
	MAFF	2
	Permanent Representation	2
SK	Department of Fruit and Organic Production Central Control & Testing Institute in Agriculture	2
FI	Finnish Food Authority	1
	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	2
SE	Swedish Board of Agriculture	2

	Swedish Food Agency	1
IS	Food and Veterinary Authority	1
NO	Food Safety Authority	1
	Ministry of Agriculture and Food	1
CH	Federal Office for Agriculture	2