



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Directorate H. Sustainability and Quality of agriculture and rural development
The Director

Short report of the 106th meeting of the Standing Committee on Organic Farming of 29 and 30 March 2012

President: M. José Manuel Sousa Uva, M. Jean-François Hulot

26 Member States were present or represented. Croatia, Norway and Switzerland were present as observers.

Section A – Opinion of the Committee

- 1. Draft Commission Regulation amending and correcting 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 ("revision of organic feed rules")**

The draft Commission Regulation received a favourable opinion by qualified majority: 258 votes in favour.

- 2. (possibly) draft Commission Regulation for amendment of 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**

An exchange of views took place with the delegations.

The draft Commission Regulation was not presented for the opinion of the Committee.

Section B – Points for information and/or discussion

- 1. Working document on proposal for amending Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 as regards control requirements, Annex I (fertilizers, soil conditioners) and Annex II (plant protection products) – exchange of views**

The Commission presented the working document and an exchange of views took place with the delegations.

- 2. Expert Group on Technical Advice for Organic Farming (EGTOP)**

The state of play concerning EGTOP activities including requests for amendments of technical annexes, amendments to the food mandate and the plant protection report were presented. A discussion took place concerning several different substances.

3. Reporting and notifications under organic farming legislation

The Commission presented the situation with regard to the different notifications and reports that are due under the organic farming legislation and invited the delegations to submit the relevant information.

4. Irregularities and controls

An update concerning notifications and cases related to EU irregularities was presented and a discussion took place. The situation concerning irregularities on products imported from Third Countries was presented as well. The COM informed the delegations on the development of a new module to report information under OFIS (Organic Farming Information System).

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

The delegations received information concerning Third Countries, including the US, Canada, China, Tunisia and Japan. A file examination was conducted to assess documents received from applicant control bodies and control authorities to be recognised under the regime of equivalency.

6. Codex Alimentarius

The COM provided an update on the preparation of the next Codex Committee on Food Labelling from 15 to 18 May 2012 in Ottawa, Canada.

7. Policy update

The COM informed the delegations on the activities related to the evaluation of the EU organic farming regulatory framework.

Miscellaneous

A series of issues related to organic farming were discussed and copies of letters drafted by the Commission were distributed.

María Ángeles BENÍTEZ SALAS

(Signed)

List of participants

Standing Committee on Organic Farming of 29-30 March 2012

Country	Ministry/Organisation	Number of Participants
BE	SERVICE PUBLIC DE WALLONIE – DG AGRICULTURE, RESSOURCES NATURELLES & ENVIRONNEMENT – DIRECTION DE LA QUALITE	2
BE	VLAAMSE OVERHEID, AFDELING DUURZAME LANDBOUWONTWIKKELING	
BG	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD	1
CZ	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OF CZECH REPUBLIC	1
DK	MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES – THE DANISH VETERINARY AND FOOD ADMINISTRATION – DIVISION FOR FOOD QUALITY, TECHNOLOGY AND MARKETING PRACTICES	2
DK	MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES – AGRI FISH AGENCY	
DE	BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR ERNÄHRUNG LANDWIRTSCHAFT UND VERBRAUCHERSCHUTZ - BMELV	
DE	LANDESAMT FÜR NATUR, UMWELT UND VERBRAUCHERSCHUTZ	4
DE	BUNDESANSTALT FÜR LANDWIRTSCHAFT UND ERNÄHRUNG – BLE	
DE	BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR ERNÄHRUNG LANDWIRTSCHAFT UND VERBRAUCHERSCHUTZ – BMELV	
EE	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	1
IE	DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND THE MARINE	1
EL	–	–
ES	MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA, ALIMENTACIÓN Y MEDIO AMBIENTE – SUBDIR. GEN. DE CALIDAD DIFERENCIADA Y AGRICULTURA ECOLÓGICA	2
ES	MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA, ALIMENTACIÓN Y MEDIO AMBIENTE – SUBDIR. GEN. DE CALIDAD DIFERENCIADA Y AGRICULTURA ECOLÓGICA	
FR	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	1
IT	MINISTERO DELLE POLITICHE AGRICOLE ALIMENTARI E FORESTALI – UFFICIO SAQX – AGRICOLTURA BIOLOGICA	
IT	MINISTERO DELLE POLITICHE AGRICOLE ALIMENTARI E FORESTALI – UFFICIO SAQX – AGRICOLTURA BIOLOGICA	4
IT	CRA	
IT	MINISTERO DELLE POLITICHE AGRICOLE ALIMENTARI E FORESTALI – UFFICIO SAQX – AGRICOLTURA BIOLOGICA	
CY	PERMANENT REPRESENTATION	1
LV	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	1
LT	–	–
LU	MINISTERE DE L'AGRICULTURE, DE LA VITICULTURE ET DU DEVELOPPEMENT RURAL – ADMINISTRATION DES SERVICES TECHNIQUES DE L'AGRICULTURE	1
HU	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT – DEPARTMENT OF FOOD CHAIN	1

	CONTROL	
MT	MINISTRY FOR RESOURCES AND RURAL AFFAIRS – ORGANIC FARMING SECTION – AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE	1
NL	MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND INNOVATION	3
NL	HPA	
NL	MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATION	
AT	BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR GESUNDHEIT (BMG)	1
PL	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT – DEPARTMENT OF PROMOTION AND COMMUNICATION	1
PT	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, SEA, ENVIRONMENT AND REGIONAL PLANNING – MAMAOT	1
RO	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	1
SI	MINISTRSTVO ZA KMETIJSTVO, GOZDARSTVO IN PREHRANO – AGRICULTURE MARKETS DIVISION	1
SK	CENTRAL CONTROL & TESTING INSTITUTE IN AGRICULTURE - DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ORGANIC PROTECTION	1
FI	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY – FOOD AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT	1
SE	MINISTRY FOR RURAL AFFAIRS	3
SE	NATIONAL FOOD AGENCY – FOOD STANDARDS DEPARTMENT	
SE	SWEDISH BOARD OF AGRICULTURE	
UK	DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS (DEFRA) – ORGANIC FARMING UNIT	2
UK	DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS (DEFRA) – ORGANIC FARMING UNIT	
IS	–	–
NO	NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD - DEPARTMENT OF FOOD POLICY	2
NO	NORWEGIAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY	
CH	FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS FDEA - FEDERAL OFFICE FOR AGRICULTURE FOAG - QUALITY AND SALES PROMOTION SECTION	1
HR	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	1
	EUROPEAN COMMISSION	14