



Brussels, 04 December 2013
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Short report of the 115th meeting of the Standing Committee on Organic Farming of 28-29 November 2013

President: Markus HOLZER

27 Member States were present. Cyprus and Slovakia were represented for the vote. Norway and Switzerland were present as observers.

Section A – Opinion of the Committee

- 1. Draft Commission implementing Regulation (EU) No .../..of XXX 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 with regard to organic production, labelling and control.** (*Articles 25e and 25o regarding percentage of organic juveniles/seed to be used in organic aquaculture*)

The document presented by the Commission received a favourable opinion from the Committee by Qualified Majority Vote with BE and RO abstaining.

Section B – Points for information and/or discussion

- 2. OFIS (Organic Farming Information System) – Exchange of information between Member States and the Commission, Reporting, Notifications of irregularities – Presentation of different modules**

A presentation was made concerning the different modules available to Member States for the communication and exchange of information.

- 3. Draft Commission implementing Regulation (EU) No .../..of XXX 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 with regard to organic production, labelling and control.** (*Annexes I and II*)

Delegations were provided with a new document and the reasons for the changes made since last discussion at 26 September SCOF. After discussion, The Commission agreed to introduce some minor changes and provisions in the document about Annex I and II,

as well as about substances belonging to Annex V and VI of Regulation 889/2008. A TBT notification will be sent to the WTO for commenting.

4. Rural development programs in CAP post 2013: Delegated and implementing acts

Delegations were informed about the latest state of play of the preparation of delegated and implementing acts on CAP post 2013, in particular on the provisions relevant for organic farming.

5. Accreditation of control bodies in the field of organic production: presentation by the European cooperation for Accreditation (EA) of the new policy to be implemented as from 1 January 2014

Delegations were provided with a presentation on the general requirements for accreditation and the specific requirements concerning control bodies in the field of organic production, both in the EU and in Third Countries.

6. Dealing with alleged fraud in the organic sector – lessons learnt from the "Gatto con gli stivali" case (questionnaire to MS) and way forward

Delegations were provided with an overview of action taken at MS and Commission's level on the massive fraud case uncovered in 2011, and of proposed follow up.

7. Reporting and notifications under organic farming legislation

Delegations were provided with updated information concerning the different notifications that are required according to the relevant organic production legislation.

8. Review of EU organic framework – state of play

Delegations were informed about the latest situation concerning the review of the political and legislative framework for organic farming.

9. Irregularities and controls

a) Update on notification of EU irregularities

An update concerning EU irregularity notifications was provided to the delegations.

b) Update on notification of irregularities concerning imported products

Delegates were briefed on irregularities found in imported products.

10. EGTOP – follow-up – news on Subgroups Aquaculture & Food II

The Delegates were informed about the latest meeting of the subgroups(Aquaculture & Food II) and about the rolling programme for next year 2014. The delegations agreed on continuing with new mandates(III) on Aquaculture and Food for the first semester of 2014. A mandate on feed will be also put forward next year.

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

a) CB application 2013 overview, instructions for assessment for co-reporters (CircaBC)

Dossiers for assessment of the 50 applications of CBs 2013 (11 geographical extensions, 28 product scope extension, 4 applications and 7 re-applications) will be

uploaded in CIRCABC until December 06, 2013. Co-reporting MS are asked to complete template for quality assessment and recommendation for listing until 7 January 2014. Documents are confidential.

- b) Proposition of technical adaptations to the incorporation of organic legislation into the EEA Agreement

This point of the agenda could not be addressed.

- c) Overview on third countries and CBs

Delegations were provided with an overview on listed and applicant third countries (including information about Korea as requested by PL).

12. Miscellaneous¹

- a) Inclusion of selenised yeast in Annex VI – FI;

The Commission understood the problem and importance of the lack of Selenium and its consequences in the milk production in Finland. The Commission will raise the issue at the next meeting of the Expert Group for technical advice on Organic Farming with the aim to look after it as soon as possible.

- b) Question on Annex VI (clinoptilolite) – AU;

AU raised that the new Regulation (EU) No 651/2013 authorising clinoptilolite, which is currently in annex VI, will affect the use of this substance from January 2014. Austria asks for a fast reaction due to the new situation. The Commission will amend Annex VI to allow a legal continuous use of Clinoptilolite in organic production. The most efficient way is to do it in the next Draft Commission implementing Regulation amending and correcting Regulation (EC) No 889/2008, together with Annex I and II.

- c) Information about Korea – PL.

Information provided on point 11 c).

Markus HOLZER
acting Director
signed

Annex: List of participants

¹ Any subjects that the Member States wish to discuss under Point 'Miscellaneous' need to be submitted to the Commission and the other Member States at the latest one week before the meeting of the Standing Committee on Organic Farming.

List of participants
Standing Committee on Organic Farming of 28-29 November 2013

Country	Organisation	Number of Participants
BE	SERVICE PUBLIC DE WALLONIE – DG AGRICULTURE, RESSOURCES NATURELLES & ENVIRONNEMENT – DIRECTION DE LA QUALITE	3
	MINISTERIE VAN DE VLAAMSE GEMEENSCHAP, AFDELING DUURZAME LANDBOUWONTWIKKELING	
	VLAAMSE OVERHEID, AFDELING DUURZAME LANDBOUWONTWIKKELING	
BG	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD	2
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
	MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES – AGRI FISH AGENCY	
DE	BUNDESANSTALT FÜR LANDWIRTSCHAFT UND ERNÄHRUNG – BLE	4
	BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR ERNÄHRUNG LANDWIRTSCHAFT UND VERBRAUCHERSCHUTZ - BMELV	
	LANDESAMT FÜR NATUR, UMWELT UND VERBRAUCHERSCHUTZ	
EE	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	1
IE	DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND THE MARINE	1
EL	PERMANENT REPRESENTATION	2
ES	MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA, ALIMENTACIÓN Y MEDIO AMBIENTE – SUBDIR. GEN. DE CALIDAD DIFERENCIADA Y AGRICULTURA ECOLÓGICA	4
FR	MINISTRY OF FINANCE	4
	INAO PARIS	
	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	
CR	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	1
IT	MINISTERO DELLE POLITICHE AGRICOLE ALIMENTARI E FORESTALI – UFFICIO PQA5 – AGRICOLTURA BIOLOGICA	2
CY	PERMANENT REPRESENTATION	1
LV	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	1
LT	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE –RESOURCES AND QUALITY POLICY DEPARTMENT – AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL AND ORGANIC FARMING DIVISION	3
	EKOAGROS - control body	
LU	MINISTERE DE L'AGRICULTURE, DE LA VITICULTURE ET DU DEVELOPPEMENT RURAL – ADMINISTRATION DES SERVICES TECHNIQUES DE L'AGRICULTURE	1
HU	MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT – DEPARTMENT OF FOOD CHAIN CONTROL	1

Country	Organisation	Number of Participants
MT	MINISTRY FOR RESOURCES AND RURAL AFFAIRS – ORGANIC FARMING SECTION – AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE	1
NL	MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS	2
	MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND INNOVATION	
AT	BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR GESUNDHEIT (BMG)	3
	INSTITUTE OF ORGANIC FARMING AND FARM ANIMAL BIODIVERSITY	
	AUSTRIAN AGENCY FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY	
PL	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT – DEPARTMENT OF PROMOTION AND COMMUNICATION	3
	MAIN AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD QUALITY INSPECTION	
PT	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, SEA, ENVIRONMENT AND REGIONAL PLANNING – MAMAOT	1
RO	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	2
	PAYMENT AGENCY - APIA	
SI	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT	1
SK	–	–
FI	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY – FOOD DEPARTMENT	1
SE	MINISTRY FOR RURAL AFFAIRS	3
	NATIONAL FOOD AGENCY – FOOD STANDARDS DEPARTMENT	
	SWEDISH BOARD OF AGRICULTURE	
UK	DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS (DEFRA) – ORGANIC TEAM	3
EFTA	–	–
NO	NORWEGIAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY	2
	NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD - DEPARTMENT OF FOOD POLICY	
CH	FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS FDEA - FEDERAL OFFICE FOR AGRICULTURE FOAG - QUALITY AND SALES PROMOTION SECTION	2