



Brussels,
JO/sn/agri.ddg1.b.4(2014)4358928

Short report of the 122nd meeting of the Regulatory Committee on Organic Production of 25 November 2014

President: Diego CANGA FANO

27 Member States were present. Cyprus was absent. Iceland, Norway and Switzerland were present as observers.

Section A – Opinion of the Committee

- 1. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) amending Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 as regards the origin of organic aquaculture animals, aquaculture husbandry practices, feed for organic aquaculture animals and products and substances allowed for use in organic aquaculture**

The document presented by the Commission received a favourable opinion from the Committee by qualified majority (**26 MS in favour, 2 abstentions**). PL and HR abstained.

Section B – Points for information and/or discussion

- 2. Draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 as regards the recognition of control authorities and control bodies for the purpose of compliance and equivalence in relation to the import of organic products [Ares(2014)432156]**

The Commission informed about a meeting with EOCC (European Organic Certifiers Council) to identify the EU legal provisions that raise concerns with regard to their implementation in third countries.

- 3. Review of EU organic framework – state of play**

This point was not discussed due to a lack of time.

- 4. Electronic certification for imported organic products – state of play**

The Commission updated delegations on the development of the system for electronic certification for imported organic products under the Trade Control and Expert System

(TRACES) and invited them to provide details of the authorities endorsing the certificates of inspection with a view to testing the system.

5. Basis substances: state of play

This point was not presented due to a lack of time.

6. Irregularities

a) Update on notification of EU irregularities

Delegates received an update of notifications, with some specific cases brought up to their attention, and were reminded of the requirements on notification deadlines.

b) Follow-up declassification of products from Romania following message of 3/10/2014

An overview of the situation was presented, followed by a discussion concerning follow-up actions.

c) Update on notification of irregularities concerning imported products

(1) Overview of notifications per 01/11/2014

The Commission announced [the number of new notifications since the last meeting and of total open cases. A discussion on the best modus operandi in investigating and responding to such notifications followed.

(2) Cases for presentation by the notifying Member State and discussion

The Member States responsible presented the state of investigation of the cases listed below and discussed options for more efficient operating procedures with the Commission.

(a) 167 (75/2014) NL

(b) 143 (49/2014) DE

(c) 111 (15/2014) ES

(3) 2012 and 2013 cases

7. EGTOP

a) Presentation of EGTOP Report on Food III and EGTOP Report on Feed II.

The Commission informed that EGTOP report on Feed II was not finished by the experts yet and presented the executive summary of the Food III report. Both reports will be published asap on the DG AGRI website.

b) Update on 2015 programme and proposal of new mandates (Mandate for technical advice on organic fertilizers and soil conditioners II; Mandate for technical advice on disinfectants and cleaning agents both for animal and plant production). The two new mandates for 2015 were presented and comments were requested before 15 December 2014.

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

a) Overview on third countries and CBs.

The delegations were updated on the state of play of the negotiations on equivalence.

b) Korea

The Commission informed MS on the state of play of the current discussions on an organic equivalence agreement with Korea.

c) Australia

The Commission informed MS on the results of the FVO audit of Australia's control system and the consequences regarding its status as equivalent country listed in Annex III of Reg. 1235/2008.

- d)** Controls on EU organic dairy production without the use of antibiotics for export to the US under the EU-US equivalence arrangement

The Commission drew the attention on the outline sent to MS on December 2013 and sent again before this meeting.

- e)** United States

The Commission briefed MS about the last meeting of the EU-US Organic Working Group held by videoconference.

9. Miscellaneous¹

- Developments under OFIS.

The Commission announced the development of a new tool for the transmission of organic data feeding into the annual reports on control activities under the Multiannual National Control Plans, and into those plans. Delegates were also invited to verify OFIS users, as part of the necessary regular review of access rights.

- Import of micro-algae products.

BE and CZ introduced the issue at stake. The Commission provided some elements for reflexion and collected information from the Delegations.

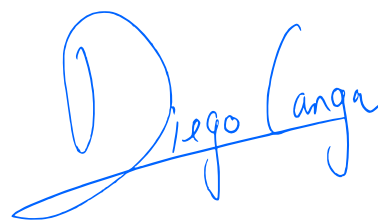
- Validity of certificates issued by control bodies that have lost their recognition (NL, DE, FR)

DE explained the issue, which is theoretical so far. The Commission asked MS to inform about the economic impact that this situation could have.

- Feed additives – how does the revision of feed additives affect the review of the organics Regulation. The point was explained by DG SANCO as few feed additives listed in Annex VII of Regulation 889/2008 need to be aligned with the recent amendments of feed additives Regulation.

- New Infographics on the Web site on Organics

The Commission presented a series of four new Infographics on Organics which are available in 23 EU official languages and can be downloaded on the internet. Delegates were invited to use them and promote them with their stakeholders.



Diego CANGA FANO

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 Regulatory Committee on Organic Production.

List of participants
Regulatory Committee on Organic Production of 25 November 2014

Country	Organisation	Number of Participants
BE	SERVICE PUBLIC DE WALLONIE – DG AGRICULTURE, RESSOURCES NATURELLES & ENVIRONNEMENT – DIRECTION DE LA QUALITE	2
	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
	MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES – AGRI FISH AGENCY	
DE	BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR ERNÄHRUNG LANDWIRTSCHAFT UND VERBRAUCHERSCHUTZ - BMELV	3
	GERMAN FEDERAL OFFICE FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE	
	LANDESAMT FÜR NATUR, UMWELT UND VERBRAUCHERSCHUTZ	
EE	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	1
IE	DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND THE MARINE	1
EL	MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD	1
ES	MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA, ALIMENTACIÓN Y MEDIO AMBIENTE – SUBDIR. GEN. DE CALIDAD DIFERENCIADA Y AGRICULTURA ECOLÓGICA	1
FR	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	2
HR	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	1
IT	MINISTERO DELLE POLITICHE AGRICOLE ALIMENTARI E FORESTALI – UFFICIO PQA5 – AGRICOLTURA BIOLOGICA	1
CY	-	-
LV	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	1
LT	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE –RESOURCES AND QUALITY POLICY DEPARTMENT – AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL AND ORGANIC FARMING DIVISION	1
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
MT	MINISTRY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE	1
NL	MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS	2
AT	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	2
	INSTITUTE OF ORGANIC FARMING AND FARM ANIMAL BIODIVERSITY	

Country	Organisation	Number of Participants
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	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT	1
SK	CENTRAL CONTROL & TESTING INSTITUTE IN AGRICULTURE - DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ORGANIC PROTECTION	1
FI	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY	2
	FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY EVIRA	
SE	SWEDISH BOARD OF AGRICULTURE	1
UK	DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS (DEFRA) – ORGANIC TEAM	1
EFTA	–	
IS	EMBASSY OF ICELAND	1
NO	NORWEGIAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY	2
	NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD - DEPARTMENT OF FOOD POLICY	
CH	MISSION OF SWITZERLAND TO THE EUROPEAN UNION	1