



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Directorate B. Multilateral relations, quality policy
Director

Brussels,
JO/ib

Short report of the 125th meeting of the Regulatory Committee on Organic Production of 21-22 May 2015

President: Diego CANGA FANO

28 Member States were present. Norway and Switzerland were present as observers.

Section A - Opinion of the Committee

1. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) amending and correcting 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

The document presented by the Commission received a favourable opinion from the Committee by unanimity (**28 MS in favour**).

Section B – Points for information and/or discussion

1. Implementation of EU organic regulations in third countries

Commission explained that no new information had been received from stakeholders or MS. A final table will be presented in next meeting.

2. Electronic certification of organic products imported into the EU – discussion of comments and suggestions for improvement further to the testing of the system

3. Follow up to irregularities and fraud allegations

a) Update on notification of EU irregularities

Delegates received the overview of the period 24/02/2015 – 30/4/2015 and were invited to provide clarifications for two cases.

b) Sunflower cakes for feed from Ukraine – conclusions

COM presented its conclusions in relation to these grave and widespread irregularities. A detailed report will be made available to Competent Authorities for comments.

c) Update on notification of irregularities concerning imported products

- (1) Overview of open notifications per 24/04//2015
- (2) Cases for presentation by the notifying Member State and discussion
 - (a) 237 (11/2015) SI – prunes from Serbia
 - (b) 16/2015 UK – wheat from Kazakhstan
 - (c) 28/2015 DE – bananas from Ecuador
- (3) Follow-up of cases presented in RCOP
 - (a) 226 DK – wheat from Kazakhstan
 - (b) 202 DE – oregano from Turkey

4. Follow up to the questionnaire for the collection of data on the availability of organic aquaculture juveniles

The COM presented an overview of the results by species based on the questionnaire and gave a preliminary assessment of the situation on the availability of juveniles in EU. The evaluation needs to be completed with the data missing from some MS and Control bodies operating in Third Countries; however, most of EU production has already been covered and the Member States have been invited to send comments and feedback on the COM's assessment

5. Risk Information Form (RIF) – presentation of the purpose and features of the mechanism for exchanging risk information between customs offices in the EU

6. EGTOP

COM gave an update information about EGTOP as regard the mandates discussed at the wine and fertiliser subgroups, the publication of the feed II report on Internet and the meetings programmed ahead

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

a) Overview on third countries

b) US: Commission debriefed MS about the meetings with a USNOP delegation held in Brussels on 19-20 March.

c) India: Commission debriefed MS about the FVO audit carried out in India between 13 and 23 April 2015.

8. The role of Member States as co-reporters and ways to improve communication.

Commission reminded MS about their role as co-reporters and the need to improve their contributions. A discussion followed.

9. Working document amending Regulation (EC) No 889//2008 as regards the inclusions of substances in Annexes II, V, VI, VIII and VIIIa

The COM presented the working document in detail and gave three weeks for getting comments. The document will be completed and presented again next RCOP meeting.

Miscellaneous

Delegates were invited to provide input on training priorities for organic in 2016 in the framework of the Commission's initiative Better Training for Safer Food.

COM briefly presented the point on the simplification of the organics statistics questionnaire.



Diego CANGA FANO

Annex: List of participants

List of participants

Regulatory Committee on Organic Production of 21-22 May 2015

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	PERMANENT REPRESENTATION	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	3
DE	BUNDESANSTALT FÜR LANDWIRTSCHAFT UND ERNÄHRUNG -BLE	4
	BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR ERNÄHRUNG LANDWIRTSCHAFT UND VERBRAUCHERSCHUTZ - BMELV	
EE	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	1
IE	DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND THE MARINE	1
EL	MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD - DIRECTORATE OF ORGANIC FARMING Unit of Organic Products of Animal Origin	1
ES	MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA, ALIMENTACIÓN Y MEDIO AMBIENTE - SUBDIR. GEN. DE CALIDAD DIFERENCIADA Y AGRICULTURA ECOLÓGICA	1
FR	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	3
HR	PERMANENT REPRESENTATION	1
IT	MINISTERO DELLE POLITICHE AGRICOLE ALIMENTARI E FORESTALI - UFFICIO PQA5 - AGRICOLTURA BIOLOGICA	1
CY	PERMANENT REPRESENTATION	1
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 RESOURCES AND RURAL AFFAIRS - ORGANIC FARMING SECTION - AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE	1

Country	Organisation	Number of Participants
NL	MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS	2
AT	BUNDESMINISTERIUM FUR GESUNDHEIT (BMG)	1
PL	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT - DEPARTMENT OF PROMOTION AND COMMUNICATION	1
PT	MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND SEA - MAM	1
RO	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PERMANENT REPRESENTATION	2
SI	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT	1
SK	CENTRAL CONTROL & TESTING INSTITUTE IN AGRICULTURE - DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ORGANIC PROTECTION	1
FI	FINNISH FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY - EVIRA	1
SE	NATIONAL FOOD AGENCY - FOOD STANDARDS DEPARTMENT SWEDISH BOARD OF AGRICULTURE	2
UK	DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS (DEFRA) - ORGANIC TEAM	1
EFTA		
IS		
NO	NORWEGIAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD - DEPARTMENT OF FOOD POLICY	2
CH	FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS FDEA - FEDERAL OFFICE FOR AGRICULTURE FOAG - QUALITY AND SALES PROMOTION SECTION	1