



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 96th meeting of the Standing Committee on Organic Farming (SCOF) of 29 and 30 March 2011

President: Ms Benitez Salas, Mr Hulot

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

Section A – Drafts presented for opinion

1. Draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 as regards publication of the list of operators

The Commission Regulation received a favourable opinion by qualified majority: 333 votes in favour, 12 votes against.

Section B - Points for information and/or discussion

1. Information on the new Comitology rules

The delegations received information on the new comitology – Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers.

2. Update on the preparation of the next Codex Committee on Food Labelling from 9 to 13 May in Québec, Canada

Information was provided on the different issues that will be on the agenda of the next meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling.

3. Organic legislation

An exchange of views took place concerning organic wine. The latest available information on animal feed was presented and the delegations were also informed concerning the works of the Expert Group on Technical Advice for Organic Farming.

4. Import regime

The delegations were informed on the state of play concerning the assessment of applications of control bodies for the purpose of equivalence. Information was also provided concerning the equivalence with third countries and the follow up including the need for a future modification of Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008, as regards the procedure for requesting inclusion in the list of recognised control bodies and control authorities for the purpose of compliance and the list of third countries from which certain agricultural products obtained by organic production must originate to be marketed within the Union.

5. Report to the Council and the Parliament foreseen by Article 41 of the Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007

Information was provided concerning the state of play for the collection of information and the timeframe for the finalisation of the report.

6. Questionnaire for the collection of organic farming statistics – information on state of play and follow-up following meeting of the Organic Farming Task Force of 7-8 March 2011

The delegations were informed on the state of play concerning collection of data and on the steps for the finalisation of the questionnaire.

7. Irregularities and controls

An overview of the notifications on irregularities on products from the EU as well as on imported products was provided. A presentation of the Anti Fraud initiative was made.

8. Questions posed under AOB in previous SCOF meetings

An exchange of views took place following presentations by the Swedish delegation on immunocastration of piglets and by the Italian delegation on accidental presence of pesticide products.

9. Miscellaneous

The Commission replied to a number of questions raised by the delegations and provided information on different issues related to organic farming. Subject to confirmation, the next meeting of the SCOF will take place on 10 and 11 May 2011.

María Angeles BENITEZ SALAS
Director
(*signed*)

List of participants

Standing Committee on Organic Farming 29 and 30 March 2011

Country	Ministry/Organisation	Number of Participants
BE	Service public de Wallonie, DG Agriculture, Ressources naturelles & Environnement, Direction de la Qualité Ministerie van de Vlaamse Gemeenschap, Afdeling Duurzame Landbouwontwikkeling	2
BG	Ministry of Agriculture and Food	1
CZ	Ministry of Agriculture	1
DK	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Danish Veterinary and Food Administration and Danish Plant Directorate.	2
DE	Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz – BMELV, Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung – BLE, Landesamt für Natur, Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz	3
EE	Ministry of Agriculture	1
EL	Ministry of Rural Development and Food – Directorate of Organic Farming	1
ES	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Medio Rural y Marino Subdir. Gen. de Calidad Diferenciada y Agricultura Ecológica	1
FR	Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'alimentation et de la pêche - Dir. gen. des politiques agricole, agroalimentaire et des territoires, Bureau de la gestion des signes de qualité et de l'agriculture biologique, Ministère des Finances	3
IE	Department of Agriculture and Food	1
IT	Ministero delle Politiche Agricole, Alimentari e Forestali Ufficio SAQX – Agricoltura biologica, CRA-PCM	3
CY	Department of Agriculture	1
LV	Ministry of Agriculture	1
LT	Resources and Quality Policy Department - Agri-Environmental and Organic Farming Division, Ministry of Agriculture	1
LU	Ministère de l'Agriculture, de la Viticulture et du Développement rural – Administration des Services Techniques de l'Agriculture	1
HU	Ministry of Rural Development	1
MT	Organic Farming Section – Research & Development Centre	1
NL	Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation, HPA	2
AT	Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (BMG), Institut für Biologische Landwirtschaft und Biodiversität HBLFA	2
PL	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development - Department of Agricultural Markets	1
PT	Ministerio da Agricultura, do Desenvolvimento Rural e das Pescas - GPP	1

Country	Ministry/Organisation	Number of Participants
RO	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	1
SI	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food	1
SK	Central Control and Testing Institute in Agriculture, Permanent Representation	2
FI	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry/Food and Health Department	1
SE	National Food Administration – Food Standards Department, Swedish Board of Agriculture	2
UK	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs – DEFRA	2
NO	Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Department of Food Policy, Norwegian Food Safety Authority	2
CH	Federal Department of Economic Affairs FDEA - Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG - Quality and Sales Promotion Section	1
IS	The Icelandic Mission to the EU	-
COM	European Commission	12