



## **Short Report of the 97<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee on Organic Farming (SCOF) of 10 and 11 May 2011**

**President: Ms Benitez Salas, Mr Hulot**

*27 Member States were present or represented. Norway and Switzerland were present as observers.*

### **Section A – Opinion of the Committee**

**1. Draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending 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 Commission Regulation received a favourable opinion by unanimity: 345 votes in favour.

**2. (poss.) Draft rules of procedure for the Standing Committee on Organic Farming, as required by Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 ("new Comitology").**

The draft rules were not presented for the opinion of the Committee as the relevant document was not ready.

### **Section B - Points for information and/or discussion**

#### **1. Import regime**

##### **a) Equivalence with control bodies and control authorities**

An exchange of views took place on a working document about the establishment of Annex IV of Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008.

The Commission provided information on the state of play concerning the applications of control bodies and control authorities lodged by 31 October 2009 for the purpose of equivalence. Co-reporting Member States examined additional information provided for a series of applications and provided comments.

##### **b) Equivalence with third countries**

The Commission presented an overview of the situation concerning the 2010 annual reports from Third Countries listed for equivalence as well as on pending requests for recognition. Information was also provided concerning the outcome of the negotiations by the Commission and the co-reporting Member States concerning Canada.

## **2. Irregularities and controls**

Updated information was provided and an exchange of views took place concerning irregularities on products from the EU as well as on products from Third Countries.

## **3. Information on training on organic farming organised under the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) initiative**

Information was provided on the state of play of the initiative and the specific sessions that are foreseen concerning organic farming in 2011-2012.

## **4. (poss.) Organic legislation**

A working document amending Regulation (EC) n° 889/2008 as regards organic feed for livestock was presented to the delegations.

## **5. Points raised under Miscellaneous in previous meetings of the Standing Committee**

- a) The Commission gave an overview of the information and notifications received in 2010-2011 according to the organic farming legislation.
- b) The Commission informed the delegations on the preparation of a series of interpretative notes concerning labelling of organic products.
- c) A presentation was made by FR concerning the issue of indoor fattening after transhumance.
- d) A presentation was made by SE concerning beekeeping.

## **6. 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 7 and 8 July 2011.

María Angeles BENITEZ SALAS  
(*signed*)

## List of participants

Standing Committee on Organic Farming 10 and 11 May 2011

Country	Ministry/Organisation	Number of Participants
<b>BE</b>	Service public de Wallonie, DG Agriculture, Ressources naturelles & Environnement, Direction de la Qualité Ministerie van de Vlaamse Gemeenschap, Afdeling Duurzame Landbouwontwikkeling	<b>2</b>
<b>BG</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Food	<b>1</b>
<b>CZ</b>	Ministry of Agriculture	<b>1</b>
<b>DK</b>	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Danish Veterinary and Food Administration and Danish Plant Directorate.	<b>2</b>
<b>DE</b>	Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz – BMELV, Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung – BLE, Landesamt für Natur, Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz	<b>5</b>
<b>EE</b>	Ministry of Agriculture	<b>1</b>
<b>EL</b>	Ministry of Rural Development and Food – Directorate of Organic Farming	<b>1</b>
<b>ES</b>	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Medio Rural y Marino Subdir. Gen. de Calidad Diferenciada y Agricultura Ecológica	<b>1</b>
<b>FR</b>	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	<b>3</b>
<b>IE</b>	Department of Agriculture and Food	<b>1</b>
<b>IT</b>	Ministero delle Politiche Agricole, Alimentari e Forestali Ufficio SAQX – Agricoltura biologica, CRA-PCM	<b>2</b>
<b>CY</b>	Department of Agriculture	<b>2</b>
<b>LV</b>	Ministry of Agriculture	<b>1</b>
<b>LT</b>	Resources and Quality Policy Department - Agri-Environmental and Organic Farming Division, Ministry of Agriculture	<b>1</b> (on 10/05/2011)
<b>LU</b>	Ministère de l'Agriculture, de la Viticulture et du Développement rural – Administration des Services Techniques de l'Agriculture	<b>1</b>
<b>HU</b>	Ministry of Rural Development	<b>1</b>
<b>MT</b>	Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs, Organic Farming Section – Research & Development Centre	<b>1</b>
<b>NL</b>	Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation, HPA	<b>2</b>
<b>AT</b>	Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (BMG), Institut für Biologische Landwirtschaft und Biodiversität HBLFA	<b>1</b>
<b>PL</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development - Department of Agricultural Markets	<b>1</b>

<b>Country</b>	<b>Ministry/Organisation</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
<b>PT</b>	Ministerio da Agricultura, do Desenvolvimento Rural e das Pescas - GPP	<b>1</b>
<b>RO</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	<b>1</b>
<b>SI</b>	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food	<b>1</b>
<b>SK</b>	Central Control and Testing Institute in Agriculture, Permanent Representation	<b>1</b>
<b>FI</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry/Food and Health Department	<b>1</b>
<b>SE</b>	National Food Administration – Food Standards Department, Swedish Board of Agriculture	<b>3</b>
<b>UK</b>	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs – DEFRA	<b>2</b>
<b>NO</b>	Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Department of Food Policy, Norwegian Food Safety Authority	<b>2</b>
<b>CH</b>	Federal Department of Economic Affairs FDEA - Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG - Quality and Sales Promotion Section	<b>1</b>
<b>IS</b>	The Icelandic Mission to the EU	<b>-</b>
<b>COM</b>	European Commission	<b>10</b>