



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate H. Sustainability and Quality of agriculture and rural development

The Director

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**Short report of the 111th meeting of the Standing Committee on Organic Farming
of 15 and 16 January 2013**

President: María Ángeles BENÍTEZ SALAS

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

Section A – Opinion of the Committee

- 1. Draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, as regards supervision and controls**

Exchange of views. The draft regulation was not presented for the opinion of the Committee.

- 2. Draft Commission Regulation for amendment of 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 proposed to amend Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 as regards provisions on the certificate of inspection and information exchange on non-compliant products. The Commission also proposed to Annex III and Annex IV of the Regulations.

Vote: positive opinion (304 in favour, 29 against, 12 non represented).

Section B – Points for information and/or discussion

- 3. Implementing rules (Regulation (EC) No 889/2008)**

Information about the results of the enquiry on non-organic ingredients (Annex IX)

The Commission informed Member States about the feedback on a questionnaire investigating on the possible exclusion of non-organic ingredients from the respective Annex IX.

- 4. Reporting and notifications under organic farming legislation**

An overview of notifications and reporting in 2012 was presented.

5. Irregularities and controls

An overview of irregularities concerning EU products as well as products imported from Third Countries was provided. A presentation was given to the delegations on the latest developments concerning OFIS.

6. Codex Alimentarius – state of play of electronic working groups.

The Commission informed SCOF about the two outstanding issues in the electronic working groups regarding the changes of the guidelines for production, processing and labelling of Organic produced Food, to include ethylene and aquaculture.

7. EGTOP: Follow up of the last plenary meeting of the group and work programme for 2013

The commission informed the SCOF about the conclusion of last plenary EGTOP meeting that was held last 4 December. Two mandates are expected for 2013, one on "Protected cropping" and another one on "Food".

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

- a) Overview on third countries
- b) Co-reporting Member States for Korea (2 MS), Taiwan (2 MS), Bolivia (2 MS), Paraguay (2 MS), Uruguay (1 MS): call for volunteers
- c) USA
- d) Japan
- e) (Possibly) Assessment of applications of control bodies with the assistance of Member States

An overview was given on applications from third countries to be recognised for the purpose of equivalence and on applications for scope extension received from recognised third countries. Information was provided on the current process for the assessment of applications of control bodies with the assistance of Member States, as well as on its expected technical evolution.

9. Miscellaneous¹

Various points were discussed at the request of Member States and on the initiative of the Commission.



María Ángeles BENÍTEZ SALAS

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.