



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B. Quality, Research & Innovation, Outreach
Director

Brussels,
NV/sn/agri.ddg1.b.4(2017)5465699

SUMMARY RECORD

Meeting of the Committee on Organic Production

on 29 September 2017

Chair: Nicolas VERLET, except for Section A: Lene NAESAGER

Delegations present: All Member States were present, except CY and FI. CY was represented by GR.

Section A – Opinion of the Committee

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 (D053265)

This Regulation amends Art. 4(1) to postpone for one year the deadline for the submission of requests of recognition for the purpose of compliance. The new date is 31 October 2018.

Unanimous vote in favour.

Section B – Points for information and/or discussion

1. 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 (updates of Annex III and IV) (D053275/01)

The Commission presented the second regular update of Regulation 1235/2008. This draft regulation contains all the amendments related to the scope and category extensions, changes of names and web addresses of control bodies and some corrections both in Annex III and IV of Regulation 1235/2008. The intention is to adopt it before Christmas.

2. Follow up to irregularities and fraud allegations in the EU

- 1) Overview of notifications as per 08/09/2017
- 2) Cases for presentation by the notified/notifying Member States and discussion
 - **INEU 381/2016 AT-HR & INEU-18/2017 IT-SI, 163/2017 SI-HR – rapeseed and corn from Croatia, certification**
The Commission requested clarifications as concerns the status of the products and the operators as well as the procedure followed. Statements by Croatia.
 - **INEU 286/2017 NL-NO & INEU-280/2017 DE-NL – salmon from Norway contaminated with Ethoxyquin**
The Commission gave a preliminary assessment against the backdrop of the Committee's proceedings in May. Interventions by Ireland and Norway. The Commission requested a coordinated follow up.
- 3) EU irregularities Annual Report (2016) – discussions based on comments by Member States
The Committee discussed the Commission's idea to publish a summary of the annual report on the Commission's external website.

3. Follow up to irregularities and fraud allegations on imported products

- 1) Overview of notifications as per 31/08/2017: 284 notifications.
- 2) Cases presented by the notifying Member States:
 - a. 196/2017 and 292/2017 – NL – goji berries from China
 - b. 164/2017 – DE – tulsi tea from India
 - c. 245/2017 – UK – tea from Sri Lanka

4. Guidelines on additional official controls on imports from Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Russian Federation

Interim evaluation of the application of these guidelines.

Report on the study tour in the Kherson region, Ukraine, on 19-20/09/2017 and the international conference in Odesa on 21-22/09/2017 on "Improving integrity on organic supply chains".

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

- 1) Implementation of the electronic certificate of inspection for imports of organic products: exchange of views
Fixed item on the agenda to discuss the implementation of the electronic certificate and to reply questions from MS. A specific workshop took place the day before.
- 2) Plurilateral Equivalence arrangement
Information on the state-of-play of the discussions about the possibility of a Plurilateral Equivalence Arrangement. MS were informed about the upcoming workshop in Chile and the drafting of a Declaration of Intent.

- 3) OFIS developments as regards control bodies recognised for the purpose of equivalence
Information on the latest developments in OFIS as regards control bodies recognised for the purpose of equivalence. MSs will be able to use these new modules as co-reporters to provide their assessments of the annual reports and assessments of new applications. More exhaustive presentation will be done at the next COP.
- 4) Overview of third countries: Japan, Korea, India
 - Japan: Information on the on-the-spot visit carried out in July 2017. Point postponed to next meeting.
 - Korea: Information on the extension of the recognition that will expire on 31 January 2018.
 - India: The European Commission requested MSs to inform until 13 October if there are any barriers for the EU organic products to enter Indian market. This information is necessary to prepare the UE position for negotiations with India in relation to the equivalency arrangements.

6. EGTOP

- 1) Nomination of permanent members and pool members
Members are nominated and published in OJ and on OF website (including DOI)
- 2) Timeline for meetings
First plenary meeting (permanent members) will take place on 9 October)
Agenda: planning and timing meeting in function of the requests for amending annexes. Documents are put on circa. Member State to submit requests if they haven't done this already.

7. Miscellaneous¹

- 1) Catalogues of measures in case of irregularities/infringements
The Commission gave an update on the initiative to share and discuss the catalogues of measures, which could lead to further harmonisation. The Commission invited the participating countries to get familiar with all catalogues and offered its services to facilitate the process of comparisons and discussions.
- 2) Outstanding questions from previous meetings:
 - Conversion. Letter and answer will be put on circa.
 - Quails and rabbits. General production rules apply- specific rules is Member States' responsibility, but must take into account production rules "mutatis mutandis" Letter and answer will be put on circa.
- 3) UK & FR – Derogation extensions (*Ares(2017)4466798 & Ares(2017)4634604*)

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 Committee on Organic Production.

UK and FR asked for the extension of the derogations for using non organic protein feed and pullets for eggs production of no more than 18 weeks, which end by 31 December 2017. The request of UK and FR was supported by PL and EL

The Commission took note of the position expressed by UK and FR, supported by PL and EL, and recalled that the proposal for which a political agreement has been achieved at the Trilogue of 28 June includes specific provisions for these two points.

- 4) FR – State of play Fipronil in organic eggs (*Ares(2017)4634604*)
FR explained that Fipronil was also found in organic eggs. FR highlighted that OFIS was not used although the fraud affected also the organic sector.
COM explained that Fipronil was an issue both in conventional and organic production of eggs. Fipronil was used illegally to fight red mites in laying hens holdings. Priorities have been to ensure that contaminated eggs and eggs products were recalled in the EU and in third countries. Fighting red mites is certainly a challenge for organic producers.
- 5) IT – Problems in the use of TRACES (*Ares(2017)4613257*)
See Section 5.1)
- 6) IT – Regulation on fertilisers (*Ares(2017)4613257*) IT warned that new fertilizer Regulation could have implications for organic rules. Commission is aware and monitors situation. Invites to come with concrete examples
- 7) DK – Use of insect protein (*Ares(2017)4618346*) DG SANCO explained the situation with regard to Animal by product legislation.
- 8) DK – Natural flavourings (*Ares(2017)4618346*). DK indicated the risk that the natural flavourings were part of the non-agricultural ingredients. Commission asked DK and the other Member States whet the extent of the problem was and if there is a need for immediate action.



Nathalie SAUZE-VANDEVYVER

List of participants– Summary Record
Meeting of the Committee on Organic Production
29 September 2017

MEMBER STATE	Ministry Or Organization	NUMBER OF PERSONS
BE	Department of Agriculture and Fishery	1
BG	Ministry of agriculture, food and forestry	2
CZ	Ministry of agriculture	1
DK	Ministry of Food and Environment – Danish Veterinary and Food Administration	1
	Ministry of Food and Environment	1
DE	Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung, BLE	1
	Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft	1
	Landesamt für Natur Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz	1
EE	Ministry of Rural Affairs	1
	Permanent Representation	1
IE	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	1
EL	Permanent Representation	1
ES	Departament d'Agricultura, Ramaderia, Pesca i Alimentació (Generalitat de Catalunya)	1
	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment	1
FR	INAO	1
	MAA DGPE	1
HR	Ministry of Agriculture	1
IT	Ministero delle politiche agricole alimentari e forestali	2
CY		
LV	Permanent Representation	1
LT	Ministry of Agriculture	1
LU	Ministry of Agriculture	1
HU	Ministry of Agriculture	1
MT	Ministry for Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change	1
NL	Ministerie van Economische Zaken (RVO)	1
	Ministry of Economic Affairs	1
AT	BMGF	1
PL	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	1

PT	DGADR / Ministry of Agriculture	1
RO	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	1
SI	MAFF	1
SK	Central Control and Testing Institute in Agriculture	1
FI		
SE	National Food Agency	1
	Swedish Board of Agriculture	1
UK	Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)	2
NOR	Norwegian Food Safety Authority	1
	Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food	1
CH	Federal Office for Agriculture	1
<i>TOTAL</i>		40