



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B. Multilateral relations, quality policy
The Acting Director

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Short report of the 117th meeting of the Standing Committee on Organic Farming of 7-8 April 2014

President: Michael ERHART

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

Section A – Opinion of the Committee

- 1. Draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 as regards requests for inclusion in the list of third countries recognised for the purpose of equivalence in relation to the import of organic products**

The draft Regulation was presented for the opinion of the Committee.

Vote: positive opinion.

Section B – Points for information and/or discussion

- 2. Draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 as regards the recognition of control authorities and control bodies for the purpose of compliance and equivalence in relation to the import of organic products**

A discussion with the delegations took place.

- 3. Follow-up of greenhouse report. Socio-economic Data from MS**

A table with the MS data on organic greenhouse production was presented by the Commission. The table will be updated for the next SCOF.

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

An update of the notifications due by 31 March (list of control bodies and control authorities and annual summary report of authorisations on the use of non-organic seeds and seed potatoes) was provided to the delegations.

5. Irregularities and controls

a) Update on notification of EU irregularities

An update concerning EU irregularity notifications and other relevant cases was provided to the delegations.

b) Update on notification of irregularities concerning imported products

Delegates were briefed on irregularities found in imported products.

c) Follow-up to information on the operation "Vertical Bio"

The Commission invited the delegations that have not yet replied to do so; requested the MS concerned by the circulation of allegedly fraudulent products to communicate all necessary information on transactions, and all MS that granted import authorisations to the operators concerned to consider all necessary measures in the light of the currently increased risk profile – so as to examine at next SCOF whether the conditions are still fulfilled; recalled the need to indicate reception of EU funding; and provided examples of good practices. A discussion followed.

6. EGTOP – update information about the different subgroups, new mandates on Feed and Food. Publication of Aquaculture report.

The COM updated the SCOF delegates with the latest news from EGTOP. .

The publication of the Aquaculture report was presented by DG MARE.

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

An overview of situation of relations with Third countries was presented, including for China, India, US, Korea and the pending applications.

8. Miscellaneous

End of the derogation to use non-organically reared pullets for egg production of not more than 18 weeks.

Inclusion of hydrochloric acid in Annex VIII of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 for the use as a reagent for dextrin production (preparation of foodstuffs of plant origin)



Michael ERHART