



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 118th meeting of the Standing Committee on Organic Farming of 15-16 May 2014

President: Michael ERHART

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

Section A – Opinion of the Committee

- 1. Draft Commission 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 (products extension, Tunisia, CBs India)**

The document presented by the Commission received a favourable opinion from the Committee by qualified majority (**284 in favour, 41 abstentions, 27 not represented**). PL was absent at the time of the vote. IT and EL abstained.

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**

Discussion on this text continued after presentation on 7 April. Commission requests Member States with comments that these should be sent in 2 weeks, with a view of having a next round of discussion in the June SCOF. Commission announced intention to proceed to a vote in the July SCOF.

- 3. Information on upcoming amendments to Annexes III and IV to Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008: New Zealand (wine), Libancert, other minor updates**

The Commission provided information on the content of the upcoming draft regulation amending and correcting Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008.

4. Follow-up of greenhouse report. Socio-economic updated data from MS

COM presented an update of the table on MS organic greenhouse production. Several MS and Norway reaffirmed their positions in the greenhouse dossier. The North-South point of view was reconfirmed, although several MS also showed a willingness to introduce the necessary flexibility to cope with the climatic and geographical differences within the EU.

5. Reporting and notifications under organic production legislation

An update of notifications was provided to the delegations. The Commission informed about the updated lists of the competent authorities in the EU Member States and, where available, of the EU control bodies and control authorities approved on 31 December 2013 are published on the Organic Farming website: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/consumer-trust/certification-and-confidence/controls-and-inspections/control-system/index_en.htm

6. Follow up to irregularities and fraud allegations

a) Update on notification of EU irregularities

An update concerning EU irregularity notifications and other relevant cases was provided to the delegations and an exchange of views took place.

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" as regards import authorisations granted according to Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008

The discussion focused on the information provided by the different delegations and the necessary follow-up.

7. EGTOP – updated information on current works

The progress in EGTOP was explained by COM. Two reports, PPP II and Food II, have been recently published and there are three sub-groups preparing other reports (Aquaculture B, Feed II and Food III), to be discussed in the plenary group later this year.

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

a) Overview on third countries

The Delegations were updated with the state of the situation of the equivalence with Switzerland.

b) Korea

The Delegations were updated on the state of play of the negotiations on equivalence.

c) US

COM briefed MS on the peer review on USNOP carried out on 5-9 May.

9. Miscellaneous¹

a) IE – Organic Dairying: Impediments encountered by organic farmers diversifying into organic dairying. [inter alia: availability of suitable organic livestock]

IE informed the SCOF about the difficulties that dairy farmers find to convert to organic and the lack of incentives to do that. IE will table a reflexion paper about it for future discussion.

b) DK – Herbicides found in organic production



Michael ERHART

signed

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.