



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Directorate B. Multilateral relations, quality policy
The Director

Brussels, 26th September 2016
JO/ib

Report of the 134th meeting of the Committee on Organic Production of 21 September 2016

President: Diego CANGA FANO

26 Member States were present. Norway was present as observer.

Section A – Opinion of the Committee

- 1. Draft Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) amending Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 as regards the electronic certificate of inspection for imported organic products and certain other elements, and Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 as regards the requirements for preserved or processed organic products and the transmission of information (D042122)**

The Commission presented the document in its final form. The Committee gave a favourable opinion on the draft Regulation (25 MS in favour and 1 MS abstained).

Section B – Points for information and/or discussion

- 1. Draft Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 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 (amendment of annexes III and IV).**

The Commission presented the draft Regulation. Written comments are expected by 7 October.

- 2. Follow up to irregularities and fraud allegations in the EU**
 - Overview of notifications (31 May to 11 August)
 - Cases for presentation by notified/notifying Member States, information and discussions
 - INEU-13/2016 FR-DE, INEU-93/2015 BE-DE (hops, hop pellets)
Discussions on cause and effective preventive/corrective measures.
- 3. The Commission's preliminary assessment based on legal opinion and discussions**

- INEU-85/2015 NL-DK, INEU-1565 BE-NL (several products, food supplements)
- Cases involving barley grass powder and similar products – monitoring recent developments

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

- 1) Overview of notifications as per 31/08/2016
- 2) Cases for presentation by the notifying Member State and discussion
 - a. 127, 157, 161, 162, 163, 177 and 180/2016 – NL – rapeseed and flax seed from Russia
 - b. Notifications on imports from Egypt

4. Guidelines on additional official controls on imports from Ukraine and neighbouring countries

Evaluation of the application of these guidelines and their possible prolongation.

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

- 1) Import of organic salmon from Norway
The Commission informed about its position and a discussion followed.
- 2) Overview third countries
The Commission informed about on-going negotiations with third countries.

6. Reporting of operators to EUROSTAT

Some organic farming data to be reported from Member States to EUROSTAT for year 2015 is still missing. AT, DE, BE, PT & EL have been invited to send the relevant information as soon as possible to EUROSTAT.

A questionnaire concerning the harmonisation of methodology in data collection has been prepared by EUROSTAT. It will be sent soon to Member States, first for consultation and afterwards as official document to be used for the reporting.

7. EGTOP

The Com informed about the two subgroup still active :PPP III and Aquaculture C. Both reports will be published after com quality check.

The Com also informed about the new call for applications which is still in preparation.

8. Miscellaneous¹

- 1) NL: request of a temporary exceptional production rule

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.

2) ES: ozone use for irrigation water. The Com clarified that ozone is not authorised explicitly in organic Production, explained the legal status of the substance under the biocide regulation and request Spain to check the Egtop report as regards cleaning and désinfection.

FRANCE CEREVISAE AUTHIRITATION.

The Com clarified about the low risk substance made with saccharomyces cerevisae.

3) Annual Reports 2014 under MANCPs –Commission's assessment against the background of ECA findings (Special Report 9/2012)

4) Labelling: question on "EU/non-EU Agriculture", and on labelling of organic spirit drinks

The Commission will provide additional clarifications in writing.



Diego CANGA FANO

Annex 1: List of participants

List of participants
Committee on Organic Production of 21 September 2016

Country	Organisation	Participants
BELGIUM	SERVICE PUBLIC DE WALLONIE – DG AGRICULTURE, RESSOURCES NATURELLES & ENVIRONNEMENT – DIRECTION DE LA QUALITE	2
	VLAAMSE OVERHEID, DEPARTEMENT LANDBOUW & VISSERIJ	
BULGARIA	PERMANENT REPRESENTATION	-
CZECH REPUBLIC	PERMANENT REPRESENTATION	1
DENMARK	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOOD	2
GERMANY	BUNDESANSTALT FÜR LANDWIRTSCHAFT UND ERNÄHRUNG – BLE	3
	BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR ERNÄHRUNG LANDWIRTSCHAFT UND VERBRAUCHERSCHUTZ - BMELV	
ESTONIA	MINISTRY OF RURAL AFFAIRS	1
IRELAND	PERMANENT REPRESENTATION	1
GREECE	PERMANENT REPRESENTATION	-
SPAIN	PERMANENT REPRESENTATION	2
FRANCE	MINISTÈRE DE L'AGRICULTURE, DE L'AGROALIMENTAIRE ET DE LA FORÊT	3
	DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DE LA CONCURRENCE, DE LA CONSOMMATION ET DE LA RÉPRESSION DES FRAUDES	
	INAO	
CROATIA	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	1
ITALY	MINISTERO DELLE POLITICHE AGRICOLE ALIMENTARE E FORESTALI	1
CYPRUS	PERMANENT REPRESENTATION	1
LATVIA	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	1
LITHUANIA	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	1
LUXEMBOURG	MINISTERE DE L'AGRICULTURE, DE LA VITICULTURE ET DE LA PROTECTION DES CONSOMMATEURS	1
HUNGARY	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE – DEPARTMENT OF FOOD CHAIN CONTROL	1
MALTA	MINISTRY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE	1
NETHERLANDS	MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS	2
AUSTRIA	INSTITUTE OF ORGANIC FARMING AND FARM ANIMAL BIODIVERSITY	1
POLAND	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	1
PORTUGAL	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	1
ROMANIA	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	1
SLOVENIA	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FOOD	1

Country	Organisation	Participants
SLOVAKIA	CENTRAL CONTROL & TESTING INSTITUTE IN AGRICULTURE	2
FINLAND	PERMANENT REPRESENTATION	1
SWEDEN	SWEDISH BOARD OF AGRICULTURE	2
UNITED KINGDOM	PERMANENT REPRESENTATION	1
EFTA	-	-
ICELAND	-	-
NORWAY	NORWEGIAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY	1
SWITZERLAND	FEDERAL OFFICE FOR AGRICULTURE	-