



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

Brussels, 14 November 2016

Invitation to the meeting of the COMMITTEE ON ORGANIC PRODUCTION

**The 135th meeting of the Committee on Organic Production
will take place on 29 November 2016 from 09:30 to 18:00 at
rue de la Loi 130 – 11th floor - room B**

**Simultaneous interpretation:
FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-PL to FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-PL**

I have the honour to invite the experts from the appropriate departments of the Governments of the Member States, Norway, Iceland and Switzerland to attend a meeting of the Committee on Organic Production which will take place on 21 September 2016 in Brussels at the following address:

**European Commission - DG AGRI building
rue de la Loi 130 – B 1049 BRUSSELS
11th floor - room B**

AGENDA

Section A – Opinion of the Committee

- 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).**

Section B – Points for information and/or discussion

- 1. Follow up to irregularities and fraud allegations in the EU**
 - 1) Overview of notifications as per 03/11/2016
 - 2) Cases for presentation by the notified (notifying) Member States and discussion

- 251/2016 FR-DE, orange leaves
- 174/2016 IT-NL, spinach seeds

3) Feedback from the Commission and discussions

- 221/2016 NL-PT raspberries
- 225/2016 AT-HU, millet

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

- 1) Overview of notifications as per 26/10/2016
- 2) Cases for presentation by the notifying Member State and discussion
 - a. 298/2016 – NL - bananas from Dominican Republic
 - b. 200/2016 – UK - Moringa powder from India

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

Final valuation of the application of these guidelines and their possible prolongation.

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

- a. Overview on Third Countries (Mexico, Chile)
- b. Debriefing on plurilateral arrangement meeting in Bern

5. EGTOP

6. Pesticides residues testing in organic production, presentation of conclusions by DG SANTE Directorate F

7. Miscellaneous¹

- BTSF Workshop on Organic Production, Grange, 27-29 September – presentation of conclusions by DG SANTE Directorate F, discussions and consultation of the Committee
- Misuses of the terms "bio", "eco", "organic" etc through the internet and how to tackle them – general principles given as food for thought by the Commission,

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.

The Commission will meet the travel expenses of one expert per Member State. Please note that delegates from Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and the EFTA Secretariat cannot be reimbursed.

The travelling expenses will be refunded according to the regulation in force and on presentation of the transport document. You are reminded that the banking details, as well as a copy of the transport document, will be required and should be joined to the form of application for reimbursement of expenses.

For each meeting, an application form shall be filled in and signed by the expert.

The original return ticket must be produced during the meeting. You are kindly requested for each meeting to bring with you all travel tickets.

Please ensure that the fare of the travel is shown on the tickets or else provide the relevant invoice.

Please fill in 'the application for reimbursement' form which you have received by email. **Please do not forget your personal label.**

All experts without a label will need to fill in the "expert identification sheet" which you have also received.

Please also read the **Specific Privacy Statement** for processing of personal data related to Comitology Committees on the Organic Farming CIRCABC website:

[https://circabc.europa.eu/Agriculture/bio/Library/Specific Privacy Statements](https://circabc.europa.eu/Agriculture/bio/Library/Specific%20Privacy%20Statements)

Where a first payment is being made by the Commission or in the case of a new bank account, please see the attached instructions.

If the journey by air involves a flight of 4 hours or more without stopovers the cost of a business class ticket shall be reimbursed.

Air tickets should be booked in economy class, on the basis of the most economical fare available at the moment of the invitation and allowing participation to the meeting and travel during the workweek.

If exceptionally, for reasons beyond the control of experts, seats have to be booked in business class and/or higher rate, the expert must produce with the ticket supporting evidence from the travel agency.

Experts must provide the secretary of the meeting with the documents necessary for their reimbursement, as required by the financial rules applicable in the Commission, by letter, fax or email postmarked or dated no later than 30 calendar days after the final day of the meeting.

Unless the expert can provide a proper justification that is accepted by reasoned decision by the responsible authorising officer, failure to comply with paragraph 2 shall absolve the Commission from any obligation to reimburse travel expenses or pay any allowances.

Yours sincerely,

(e-signed)
John BEDFORD
p.o. in the absence of
Diego CANGA FANO

JUSTIFICATION

I, the undersigned,

Surname:

First name:

declare having been forced to take an air-ticket in the business class (or discounted business) since (tick and complete relevant box):

- A ticket in the economy class was not available within the time assigned by the invitation convening the meeting of _____ on (date):
- Other reason (to be specified):

Date:

Signature:

ATTESTATION

Je soussigné,

Nom:

Prénom:

déclare avoir été contraint(e) à prendre un billet de classe business (ou business discount) étant donné que:

- Un billet économique n'était pas disponible dans les délais impartis par la convocation à la réunion du comité.
- Autre raison (à préciser):

Date:

Signature: