



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

Brussels,
EP/ib/agri.ddg1.b.4(2016)7375890

Short Report of the 135th meeting of the Committee on Organic Production of 29 November 2016

President: Jens SCHAPS

27 Member States were present. 1 MS was absent. Norway, Switzerland and Iceland were present as observers.

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).

The Commission presented the document in its final form. The Committee gave a favourable opinion on the draft Regulation (26 MS voted in favour, 1 MS abstained, 1 MS was not represented).

Section B – Points for information and/or discussion

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

Overview of notifications as per 03/11/2016

1. Cases presented by notified Member States followed by discussions
 - 251/2016 FR-DE, orange leaves
 - 174/2016 IT-NL, spinach seeds
2. Feedback from the Commission
 - 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

The Commission presented the cases and a discussion followed.

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

The Commission presented a revised version of the guidelines for 2017. The Committee adopted the revised version.

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

- a. Overview on Third Countries (Mexico, Chile)

The Commission presented the main results of the on-the-spot visit to Mexico carried out between 19 to 23 September 2016. A Mexican delegation visited the EU, in particular Italy and Spain, from 24 to 28 October 2016.

With regard to Chile, the Commission informed about state of play of proposals for Council decisions authorising signature and conclusion of the agreement.

- b. Debriefing on plurilateral arrangement meeting in Bern

The Commission debriefed the Committee about an expert workshop held in Bern (CH) on 2-3 November 2016 to explore a plurilateral arrangement on organics.

5. EGTOP

The Commission presented the latest news about the group. State of art the new call for application and the final report on PPPIII recently published.

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

DG SANTE provided an overview of the main results of pesticide residues testing in organic production.

7. Miscellaneous

All the miscellaneous points about the following subjects were discussed and answers were given:

Norwegian salmon; baby food; TRACES; info on the new horizontal legislation on fertilizers; introduction of flexibility for the use of non-organic juveniles; BTSF Workshop on Organic Production; Misuses of the terms "bio", "eco", "organic" etc through the internet; discussion

on the case 320/2016 regarding Organic Agave syrup from South Africa; Import; lecithin; Milk replacers

Jens SCHAPS

Annex 1: List of participants

List of participants
Committee on Organic Production of 29 November 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	2
CZECH REPUBLIC	PERMANENT REPRESENTATION	1
DENMARK	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOOD	2
GERMANY	BUNDESANSTALT FÜR LANDWIRTSCHAFT UND ERNÄHRUNG – BLE	5
	BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR ERNÄHRUNG LANDWIRTSCHAFT UND VERBRAUCHERSCHUTZ - BMELV	
ESTONIA	MINISTRY OF RURAL AFFAIRS	2
IRELAND	PERMANENT REPRESENTATION	1
GREECE	-	-
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	2
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	3
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	1
FINLAND	PERMANENT REPRESENTATION	1
SWEDEN	SWEDISH BOARD OF AGRICULTURE	2
UNITED KINGDOM	PERMANENT REPRESENTATION	1
EFTA	–	–
ICELAND	MISSION OF ICELAND TO THE EU	1
NORWAY	NORWEGIAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY	3
SWITZERLAND	FEDERAL OFFICE FOR AGRICULTURE	1