



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B. Quality, Research & Innovation, Outreach
Director

Brussels,
NV/sn/agri.ddg1.b.4(2018)2303021

SUMMARY RECORD

Meeting of the COMMITTEE ON ORGANIC PRODUCTION

*Tuesday 17 March 2018
Wednesday 18 March 2018*

Chair: **Nicolas Verlet**

Delegations present: (17-04-2018) All Member States were present, except Cyprus.
(18-04-2018) All Member States were present.

A. PROPOSED MEASURES ON WHICH AN OPINION MAY BE REQUESTED

N/A

B. POINTS FOR INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION

1. Authorisation of non-organic agricultural ingredients- withdrawal and addition: overview of comments received from Member States

The European Commission presented the summary of requests for withdrawals and requests for additions to Annex IX to Regulation 889/2008. Methodology of providing and assessing these requests was agreed.

2. Baby food: presentation by the Commission

The Commission presented the horizontal rules (DG SANTE) applying to “baby food” and their articulation with the current and future rules on organic production.

Several Member States asked for clarifications on several issues regarding the future organic rules.

The Commission invited the Member States who had not already done so to send their questions related to “baby food” so they can be dealt with, where possible, at the next COP.

The Commission will upload the presentation on CIRCA BC.

3. Working document: back-log implementing act on current legislation overview of comments received from Member States

The Commission explained how Member States comments were incorporated in the document

4. Organic reform-delegated and implementing acts-identification of the needs on production rules: overview of comments received from Member States

BE, CZ, DK, FR, PL, SE, and the UK provided additional comments based on which the EC considers activating additional empowerments for this thematic group.

5. Organic reform: technical discussion on poultry production rules

The Commission presented the methodology which will be used to develop implementing acts based on the organic reform for poultry production rules.

The Commission invited Member States to work on the technical points on poultry production rules relevant to the drafting of the implementing act.

A technical discussion on poultry production rules will take place at the next COP.

The European Commission will upload the presentation on CIRCA BC.

6. Letters of interpretation relevant for the COP

The Commission explained the reply to the South Africa request for Carnauba wax on citrus.

SE was requested to provide more information on micro-organisms not normally used.??

7. EGTOP overview of mandates

Mandates and draft mandates were updated based on Member States' comments. Programme for the remaining part of 2018 was finalized

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

- 1) Overview of notifications as per 4 April 2018, debriefing the Committee of developments and exchanges.

Overview by the Commission of developments since the last meeting, updates on previously discussed issues.

- 2) Cases for presentation by the notified/notifying country and discussions
 - INEU 301/2017 DE-CZ & 333/2017 CZ-SK, wheat from Slovakia, and INEU 281/2017 DE-RO & 294/2017 RO-SK, rapeseed from Slovakia

Observations by the Commission, presentation by SK.

- INEU-18/2017 IT-SI & 163/2017 SI-HR, corn from Croatia, and INEU-28/2018 IT-SI & 55/2018 SI-IT, wheat from Croatia

Preliminary assessment by the Commission. Presentations by HR and IT.

3) Recent fraud allegations

The Commission referred to exchanges concerning recent fraud allegations.

4) Use of OFIS notification and reply forms

The Commission highlighted the need to use OFIS forms as agreed.

9. Catalogue of measures in case of irregularities and infringements¹

The Commission provided an overview of the history of committee proceedings under which Member States were invited to share with one another their catalogues in order to start discussions with a view to converge the rules. The Commission recalled that it was interested in the positive outcome of such an exercise and offered its facilitation in 2017, including a shared IT platform CIRCA and English translations of all received catalogues.

In order to generate debate the Commission also provided a review of a sample of measures concerning general irregularities/infringements, irregularities/infringements in plant production, animal production/welfare and imports.

Intervening delegations (AT, BE, DE, ES, FI, IE, IT, NO, PL) provided updates, shared experience, and recognised the need for action.

10. Commission positions concerning controls and supervision, discussions

1) Documentary evidence (Annex XII of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008)

The Commission shared its position on the harmonised form of the documentary evidence and additional national rules.

2) Approval/supervision of control bodies established in other Member States

The Commission shared its position based on the rulings of the European Court of Justice.

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

The Commission withdrew this item from the agenda.

¹ Cf. Article 92d of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008

12. Electronic certificate of inspection: exchange of views

An exchange of views on the implementation of the electronic certificate took place with the presence of colleagues from the TRACES Team (DG SANTE).

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

1) The Commission presented the main elements of the draft Commission implementing Regulation aiming at amending Annexes III and IV of Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 that will be submitted for vote in the next COP meeting.

2) The Commission informed Member States about the state of play concerning the submission of the annual reports by third countries in annex III. The annual reports will be made available to the co-reporters through CIRCABC.

14. Miscellaneous

- Official Controls Regulation and current organic rules

The Commission presented a preliminary discussion on the future Official Controls Regulations and the links with the current Organic Regulation (EC) 834/2007 which will coexist from December 2019 until the 1 January 2021

- Plant based traditional herbal preparations and organic reform

The Commission has presented its view on the matter.

- Molluscs and separation

This agenda item has been postponed to the next meeting

< e-signed >

p.o. Nicolas VERLET
in absence of
Nathalie SAUZE-VANDEVYVER

List of participants– Summary Record
Meeting of the
COMMITTEE ON ORGANIC PRODUCTION
17-18 MARCH 2018

MEMBER STATE	Ministry Or Organisation	NUMBER OF PERSONS	NUMBER OF PERSONS
		17 MARCH 2018	18 MARCH 2018
BE	Vlaamse overheid, Departement Landbouw en Visserij	1	1
	SPW - DG Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment	1	1
BG	Ministry of agriculture, food and forestry	1	1
CZ	Ministry of Agriculture	1	1
DK	Ministry of Environment and Food	1	1
	Ministry of Environment and Food, The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration	1	1
DE	Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft	1	1
	Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung	1	1
	Vertretung des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen bei der EU	1	1
EE	Ministry of Rural Affairs	1	1
IE	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	1	1
EL	Permanent Representation	1	----
ES	MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA Y PESCA, ALIMENTACIÓN Y MEDIO AMBIENTE	1	1
	GENERALITAT VALENCIANA	1	1
FR	Ministere de l'Agriculture et de l'alimentation	2	1
	Ministère de l'Economie DGCCRF	1	1
	INAO	1	1
HR	Ministry of Agriculture	1	1
	Permanent Representation	----	1
IT	Ministry of Agriculture	3	2
CY	Permanent Representation	----	1
LV	Ministry of Agruculture of Latvia	1	1
LT	Ministry of Agriculture	1	1
LU	Administration des services techniques de l'agriculture	1	1
HU	Ministry of Agriculture	1	1

MT	Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change	1	1
NL	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	1	1
	RVO.nl/ Ministry of Economic Affairs and climate	1	1
AT	Bundesministerium für Arbeit, Soziales, Gesundheit und Konsumentenschutz,(BMASGK)	1	----
	BMNT	1	1
PL	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	1	1
	Main Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection	1	1
PT	DGADR - Direção Geral de Agricultura e Desenvolvimento Rural	1	1
RO	Permanent Representation of Romania to the EU in Brussels	1	1
SI	Permanent Representation of the Republic of Slovenia to the EU in Brussels	1	1
SK	Central Control and Testing Institute in Agriculture	1	1
FI	National Food Safety Authority Evira	2	2
SE	National Food Agency	1	1
	Swedish Board of Agriculture	1	1
UK	DEFRA	2	2
EFTA	----	----	----
ISL	----	----	----
NOR	Norwegian Food Safety Authority	1	1
	Ministry of Agriculture and Food	1	1
CH	Eidgenössisches Departement für auswärtige Angelegenheiten	1	1
<i>TOTAL</i>		46	45