



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B. Quality, Research & Innovation, Outreach
Director

Brussels,
NV/sn/agri.ddg1.b.4(2017)6648084

SUMMARY RECORD

Meeting of the Committee on Organic Production

30 November – 01 December 2017

Chair: Nicolas VERLET, except for Section A: Pierre BASCOU

Delegations present: All Member States except BG & CY were present on 30 November; all Member States except BG, CY & LU were present on 01 December.

SECTION A – OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Commission implementing Regulation 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 (D053275/02 - updates of Annex III, IV and V)

The Commission presented the implementing Regulation and submitted it to the vote of the Committee. The Committee voted in favour by unanimity. BG was not represented. LU was represented by BE and CY was represented by GR.

SECTION B – POINTS FOR INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION

1. Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control (D053884/01 - derogation on poultry and protein feed)

The Commission presented the results of the written procedure (27 MS in favour, 1 MS abstained) and explained that the derogations regarding the use of a small percentage of non-organic protein feed in poultry and porcine animals and the use of non-organic pullets of less than 18 weeks for egg production were extended until 31 December 2018.

2. Review of organic legislation

The Commission presented the state of play of the organic reform and the work plan for the next three years.

3. EU irregularities

- 1) Overview of notifications as per 10/11/2017
- 2) Cases for presentation by the notified/notifying country/Member State and discussions
 - INEU-328/2017 NO-GB, INEU-310/2017 NO-GB – fish feed from the UK (new cases reported since the agenda was set: INEU-386, INEU-383, 378/2017 IE-GB, INEU-382/2017 IE-FR)
Presentations by UK and NO, intervention by IE. Observations by the Commission.
 - INEU 74/2016 IT-SK
Presentation by IT, response by SK. Observations by the Commission.
- 3) Recent fraud allegations in the media
Request for information by the Commission. Presentation by IT, intervention and request by DK.

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

- 1) Overview of notifications as per 25/10/2017: 351 notifications
- 2) Cases presented by the notifying Member State and discussion:
 - a. 282/2017 – DE – adzuki beans from China
 - b. 296/2017 – AT – cumin seeds from Sri Lanka
 - c. 308/2017 – IT – flax seed from Russian Federation

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

- 1) India: follow-up on potential barriers for EU organic products to enter Indian market
The Commission presented the result of responses it receives from MS concerning possible trade barriers for EU organic products exported to India.
- 2) Japan: mission report
The Commission presented the report of the mission carried out in Japan in July 2017.
- 3) Korea: on-the-spot visit to Poland, 20-24 November
The Commission debriefed about the on-the-spot visit carried out by the Korean authorities in view of the extension of the equivalence arrangement.
- 4) US: Organic Working Group meeting, 8 November
The Commission debriefed about the outcome of the meeting.
- 5) Plurilateral arrangement: workshop in Chile, 5-7 December
The Commission informed about the upcoming workshop that will take place in Chile.
- 6) Information on the meeting with CBs/CAs
The Commission debriefed about the outcome of the meeting.
- 7) Suspension of 'Egyptian Center of Organic Agriculture' (ECO) from the list of recognised control bodies
The Commission informed delegations about the case of ECOA.

6. Electronic certificate of inspection

An exchange of views between the Commission and Member States took place.

7. Guidelines on additional official controls on imports from Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Russian Federation

The Guidelines were extended for 2018 with minor changes.

8. EGTOP

- State of play
 - 1st meeting of the permanent group on 9 October (minutes on circa(?) Subgroups on food in March, on fertiliser in April
Mandate on circa to be updated, the dossiers will be added to Circa
 - Mandate endorsed by the Committee
- Chemicals for steam processing may be rather an issue for conventional production. In function of legal clarification the subject may be taken off the EGTOP mandate

9. Authorisations of non-organic ingredients of agricultural origin

The Commission gave explanations concerning an ongoing questionnaire.

10. Question on shrimps

This is due to an omission in the last change of the Regulation hatcheries and nurseries cannot be supplied with cholesterol, while it is essential in the juveniles. This will be addressed in the next amendment of the Regulation by IA

11. OFIS developments

- 1) Presentation of a new functionality to manage requests for scope amendment by recognised control authorities/bodies in third countries
- 2) Discussion on improvements to, and future of, OFIS

The Commission presented improvements to the Organic Farming Information System which have recently been introduced in production, which are in the final test of testing and close to production and which are still in development and could be ready in the medium-longer term. The Commission also asked the views of the Committee on very specific questions and issues that may influence the development of the system.

The Commission took note of the comments made by the Member States during the discussion and invited them to send any written contributions by 15 January 2018.

12. Miscellaneous¹

1) Commission positions concerning certain control aspects

Positions concerning the scheduling of annual controls and certification of cosmetic products.

2) Letters of interpretation

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.

Relevant questions and letters of interpretation related to EU organic legislation will be made available to the COP on circabc.

3) Judgement of the Court in case C-289/16

Presentation of the Judgement of the Court, highlights. Interventions by DE, ES, and FR.

4) IT

a) Labelling of organic branded products (Ares(2017)4918772)

IT asked for a change in the approach relative to the RIPAC note No 2012-01 rev on labelling and control system. Several Member States (DK, NL) stated that the RIPAC note No 2012-01 rev clarified the rules and should not be changed.

b) Baby food (Ares(2017)4918772)

FR asked for the new approach on baby food taken in the reform should be applied from now. Commission will consider whether this can be done via an implementing act modifying the current regulations.

c) Organic insect products from equivalent TCs (Ares(2017)4893702)

Whether insects are novel food or not depends currently on the Member State. Some Member State consider insects as novel food, others not, so at this moment, they can be imported (and organically certified) legally as food in the several Member States which do not consider insects as novel food. By 1 January 2018 this will change. Then all insects will be considered as novel food in the whole EU, but the Member States which so far did not consider insects as novel food can continue to allow importation of insects till 2019 and operators can submit a dossier for a novel food authorisation.

For feed, no live insects are allowed. Only insect protein is allowed on the market for feeding to fish, provided that they are not cultivated on waste.

e) INTC 320/2016 IT - South Africa

5) FI

a) Use of chemicals in steamprocessing (Ares(2017)5815909)

main question: what is legal situation in conventional production? If not allowed in conventional, then neither in organic. Need to consult SANTE colleagues.

b) Organic insects and organic droner larvae (Ares(2017)5817080)

FI explained that dead droner larvae were added to soup and asked whether harvesting of droner larvae could be accepted under organic production for beekeeping.

The question raised two different legal aspects: novel food and organic production rules.

For novel food it is allowed because of transitional rules applicable to Finland. For organic production rules: the "destruction of male brood" prohibited in beekeeping seems not the same as harvesting droner larvae for food production. It is necessary to clarify why originally the destruction male brood was prohibited and what would be the consequences of harvesting droner larvae on the management of beehives. Commission will consult internally and decide whether an opinion from EGTOP is needed.

6) Annual Reports (ARs) under the Multiannual National Control Plan (MANCP)

The Commission raised the issue of outstanding ARs. A review as at 15/11/2017 showed that one AR (2015) and a number of other ARs (2016) were yet to be provided. The Commission requested the delegations to double check the state of play and, where necessary, ensure that all outstanding ARs are supplied without any further delay.



Nathalie SAUZE-VANDEVYVER

List of participants– Summary Record
Meeting of the Committee on Organic Production
30 November and 01 December 2017

MEMBER STATE	Ministry Or Organization	NUMBER OF PERSONS
BE	Vlaamse overheid	1
	SPW	1
BG	-----	--
CZ	Ministry of agriculture	1
DK	Ministry of Food and Environment – Danish Veterinary and Food Administration	1
	Ministry of Food and Environment	1
DE	Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung, BLE	1
	Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft	1
	Landesamt für Natur Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz	1
EE	Ministry of Rural Affairs	1
IE	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	1
EL	Permanent Representation	1
ES	MAPAMA	1
FR	INAO	1
	Ministry of agriculture and Food	1
	Ministry of Economy	1
HR	Ministry of Agriculture	1
IT	Ministero delle politiche agricole alimentari e forestali	2
CY	-----	--
LV	Ministry of Agriculture	1
LT	Permanent Representation	1
LU	Ministry of Agriculture - ASTA	1
HU	Ministry of Agriculture	1
MT	Ministry for Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change	1
NL	Ministerie van Economische Zaken (RVO)	1
	Ministry of Agriculture	1
AT	BMLFUW	1
PL	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	1
PT	DGADR / Ministry of Agriculture	1

RO	Permanent Representation	1
SI	MAFF	1
SK	Central Control and Testing Institute in Agriculture	1
FI	Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira	1
SE	National Food Agency	1
	Swedish Board of Agriculture	2
UK	Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)	1
NOR	Norwegian Food Safety Authority	1
	Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food	1
CH	Federal Office for Agriculture	1
<i>TOTAL</i>		39