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MINUTES

Meeting of the Civil Dialogue Group on Organic Farming

18 October 2024

Chair: AGRI B.4

1. Approval of the agenda and of the minutes of previous meeting

The agenda and the minutes of the previous meeting, which took place on 24 May 2024, were approved without any comments.

2. Nature of the meeting

The meeting was non-public.

3. List of points discussed

3.1 Approval of the Minutes 24 May 2024

The minutes were approved without any comments.

3.2 The State of the European Organic Market (IFOAM, COPA-COGECA, OPTA)

The representative of IFOAM, COPA-COGECA and OPTA gave an overview of the updated on organic markets around Europe.

3.3 The outcomes of the Strategic dialogue for the future of agriculture for the organic sector (IFOAM)

The representative of IFOAM gave a presentation on the future of agriculture for the organic sector. The presentation was made available on CircaBC.

3.4 International negotiations: feedback from the sector on the trade interest

The Commission representative provided a short overview of the state of play: According to Regulation (EU) 2018/848, the equivalence recognitions in organics the EU granted to 11 third countries are set to expire on 31/12/2026 at the latest.

As from that date, the EU would need to recognise third countries only by means of international agreements in accordance with Article 47 of Regulation (EU) 2018/848. For this purpose, the Commission was authorised via Council Decision (EU) 2021/1345 ⁽¹⁾ to negotiate with 11 third countries.

⁽¹⁾ Council Decision (EU) 2021/1345 of 28 June 2021 authorising the opening of negotiations with Argentina, Australia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, India, Israel, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, South

So far, we have exchanged and are exchanging at technical level with these 11 third countries an overview of the EU legislation and information regarding the EU system on organic imports, through a specific tool (Excel tables called 'side-by-side') containing all EU legislation relevant to organic production, labelling, controls, and trade. In addition, DG AGRI undertook on-the-spot visits to some of these third countries, to assess the functioning of the production and control systems in the framework of the discussions and future agreements. Their outputs were globally positive and satisfactory.

Council Decision (EU) 2021/1345 has been amended by Council Decision (EU) 2022/2341 ⁽²⁾ to also include Colombia and Mexico among the countries the Commission is authorised to open negotiations with, and a technical meeting with Mexico is going to be held soon.

3.5 Use of chemical anthelmintics in organic egg production - current situation and consequences of the new regulation (ERPA)

The representative of EPRA presented the use of chemical anthelmintics in organic egg production and the negative economic and welfare consequences of the current stricter rules related to withdrawal periods in organic production compared to conventional production. The presentation was made available on CircaBC.

3.6 Compliance - update from DG AGRI

a) state of play of recognition CAs/CBs

The Commission representative provided a short overview of the state of play.

The representative from EOCC took good note of the work done from DG AGRI in the assessment of the dossiers from the control bodies and in the implementation of the transition. The representative from EOCC welcomed the constructive dialogue.

The representative of OPTA complained about the uncertainty linked to the transition identifying possible issues for a number of suppliers which could be not in a position to export organic products to the EU.

b) validity of certificates

The Commission representative informed that the draft delegated act on derogation of certificates is still under scrutiny from the EP until 29 November 2024.

c) group certification stakeholder point of view

This point was not discussed.

Korea, Tunisia and the United States with a view to concluding agreements on trade in organic products, (OJ L 306 31.8.2021, p. 2), ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2021/1345/2022-12-01>

⁽²⁾ Council Decision (EU) 2022/2341 of 21 November 2022 amending Decision (EU) 2021/1345 as regards authorising the opening of negotiations with Colombia and Mexico with a view to concluding agreements on trade in organic products, (OJ L 310, 1.12.2022, p. 12–13), ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2022/2341/oj>

3.7 General regulation update – state of play with proposals in the pipeline

- ✓ **Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) amending Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the presentation of the organic production logo of the European Union**

Short summary: Following the necessary revision of the [EU organic farming logo user manual](#) to update the legal references, it appears that it was necessary to clarify the rules for the reproduction of the organic production logo of the European Union provided in Annex V to Regulation (EU) 2018/848. This delegated act amending Annex V of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 will clarify the provisions on the versions of the organic production logo of the European Union to ensure that a totally inverted white and black (negative) model may also be used. This model is already being used in line with the EU organic farming logo user manual published on Europa.

The amendment to the Annex also clarifies the equivalence reference in the RGB colour model for the green colour of the organic production logo.

State of play: under scrutiny of the EP and the Council

Follow up action: update of the users' manual on the EU organic logo.

- ✓ **Commission Delegated Regulation amending Part VI of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards oenological practices, processes and treatments permitted under certain conditions to produce de-alcoholised wine**

Short summary: In accordance with the procedure provided for in Article 24(7) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848, Germany has submitted a dossier to the other Member States and the Commission concerning the use of vacuum distillation to produce de-alcoholised organic wines in view of its authorisation and inclusion in point 3.3 of Part VI of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2018/848. That dossier has been evaluated by the Expert Group for Technical Advice on Organic Production (EGTOP) 3 and the Commission. EGTOP recommended to amend point 3.3 of Part VI of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2018/848 ⁽¹⁾, listing vacuum evaporative techniques among permitted practices, exclusively for the production of totally de-alcoholised wine, providing the limitations in terms of temperature (75°C) and filtration pores (not smaller than 0.2 micrometres) are fulfilled. Those vacuum evaporative techniques correspond to the de-alcoholisation process 'partial vacuum evaporation' and 'distillation', whether used on its own or in combination, referred to in points (a) and (c) of Section E of Part I of Annex VIII to Regulation (EU) 1308/2013 ⁽²⁾.

³ EGTOP final report on Wine II: https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/farming/organic-farming/co-operation-and-expert-advice/egtop-reports_en

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 (OJ L 150, 14.6.2018, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/848/oj>).

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 671, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1308/oj>).

This draft delegated act will provide, in particular, that the de-alcoholisation process ‘partial vacuum evaporation’ and ‘distillation’, whether used on its own or in combination, are authorised to produce organic de-alcoholised wine. In addition, this act will update the legal references to the acts on conventional wine. State of play: under TBT consultation (end beginning November 2024) and then to be adopted by the Commission and sent for scrutiny to the EP and the Council.

✓ **Draft Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1165 of 15 July 2021 authorising certain products and substances for use in organic production and establishing their list**

Short summary: This future implementing act will amend and, in few case, corrects the following lists of the products and substances authorised to be used in organic production:

- Active substances to be used in plant protection products,
- Fertilisers, soil conditioners and nutrients,
- Authorised products and substances for use as feed or in feed production,
- Authorised products and substances for use in the production of processed organic food and of yeast used as food or feed,
- Products and substances authorised for use in organic production in certain areas of third countries and outermost regions of the Union pursuant to Article 45(2) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848.

The draft legal act is based on recommendations from the Expert Group for Technical Advice on Organic Production (EGTOP) and was discussed with Member States at the Organic Production Committee (OPC).

Follow up actions: public consultation Have your say portal and TBT consultation then vote at the Organic Production Committee.

✓ **DRAFT DELEGATED ACT CORRECTING Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/642 of 30 October 2020 amending annex III to Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards certain information to be provided on the labelling of organic products**

Short summary: An error occurred during the publication of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/642 amending Annex III to Regulation (EU) 2018/848⁽³⁾. The Annex of the Delegated Regulation replaces point 2.1 of Annex III to Regulation (EU) 2018/848⁽⁴⁾. In this Annex, the last paragraph of point 2.1.3 relates to the information referred to in the previous points 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 which relate to the labels and transport of organic products and in conversion products, and to additional indications for compound feed authorised in organic production. The last paragraph of point 2.1.3 should not have been included in this point 2.1.3 which relates

⁽³⁾ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/642 of 30 October 2020 amending Annex III to Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards certain information to be provided on the labelling of organic products (OJ L 133, 20.4.2021, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2021/642/oj)

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 (OJ L 150, 14.6.2018, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/848/oj>).

to additional indications for mixture of fodder plant seeds. This paragraph must be a separate point.

State of play: ISC done to be presented to the MS at the next GREX.

- ✓ For the future draft **DA on organic production rules for insects** we are waiting for the final report from EGTOP and then we will resume the work already started with national experts.
- ✓ **Updates of FAQ on a regular basis**: recent update done with new answers on Annex I products [FAQs on organic rules \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu).
- ✓ **EFSA technical report on non-authorised substances in organics**
The COM recalled the overall policy context and presented the manner in which a shortlist of products and substances not authorised in organic production to be examined was compiled, the working method (involving different COM Directorates-General and agencies, enabling the putting together of all available data) and the different questions to be addressed (residue to be monitored, analytical method, authorisation status, usual use, possibility of natural occurrence, concentrations to be found in case of active use, possibility of drift and long-range aerial transport, behaviour in products, persistence in the soil, possibility of contamination with irrigation water, possibility of industrial emissions origin, etc. etc.). It also explained the timeline. The substances to be analysed are: Fosetyl-Al; Glyphosate; Cypermethrin; Imidacloprid; Boscalid; Tebuconazole; Folpet (sum); Pirimiphos-methyl; Azoxystrobin; Fluopyram; Lambda-cyhalothrin; Acetamiprid; Chlormequat; Pendimethalin; Spirotetramat; Cyprodinil; Chloridazon; Pyriproxyfen; Fludioxonil; Difenoconazole; Deltamethrin.
- ✓ **Draft Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) on the arrangements for the publication of the lists of operators and groups of operators and the information relating to the certificates provided to those operators and groups of operators in accordance with Article 35(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848** if adopted, this future act will provide possibility to make public essential information on historical versions of EU organic operator certificates in TRACES which include expired, suspended and withdrawn certificates. The retention period proposed is 5 years. The act will also set the framework of MS publication of exempted operators under Article 35(8).

3.8 GLOBAL INTEGRITY database entry into application of NOP certificates – feedback from the sector

The representative of Euroseeds, IFOAM and OPTA informed that the system is working well. They received several questions of clarification at the beginning of the implementation but not it appears as working well. Uncertainty are, however, reported about the need to certify the traders.

3.9 EGTOP

The Commission representatives presented an update on the work of the Expert Group for Technical Advice on Organic Production (EGTOP). The presentation was made available on CircaBC.

3.10 The outcomes of PPILOW

The participant gave an overview of the outcomes of the PPILOW research project, which aimed to co-construct through a multi-actor approach solutions to improve the welfare of poultry and pigs reared in organic and low-input outdoor production systems.

3.11 The ClearFarm project

The representative of ClearFarm gave an overview of the outcomes of the project. The main objective of ClearFarm was to foster innovation to fully exploit the new technological possibilities to improve animal welfare throughout the production chain. Therefore, ClearFarm co-designed, developed and validated a software platform powered by smart farming technology to provide animal welfare information, as well as other environmental and economic sustainability information. ClearFarm uses an innovative approach to ensure a real involvement of all the stakeholders of the pig and dairy value chains. The representative of ClearFarm project explained that the software platform was meaningful for the dairy sector but further work was needed for pigs to take into account the different categories of animals in the cycle of production.

4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions

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5. Next steps

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6. Next meeting

16 May 2025.

7. List of participants

(see details in the annex).

List of participants – Minutes
Meeting of the CDG on Organic Farming
18 October 2024

<u>ORGANISATIONS</u>
AREFLH - Assemblée des Régions Européennes Fruitières Légumières et Horticoles
AREPO - Association des régions européennes des produits d'origine
Bee Life - European Beekeeping Organisation
CEJA - Conseil Européen des Jeunes Agriculteurs / European Council of Young Farmers
CELCAA - European Liaison Committee for the Agricultural and AGRI-Food Trade
CEPM - European Confederation of Maize Producers
COGECA - European agri-cooperatives / General Confederation of Agricultural Co-operatives of the European Union
COPA - "European farmers / Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations of the European Union
ELO - European Landowners' Organisation
EOCC - European Organic Certifiers Council
ERPA - European Rural Poultry Association / Association européenne de volailles rurales
Europatat - European Potato Trade Association
EURAF - European Agroforestry Federation
ECVC - European Coordination Via Campesina
EEB - European Environmental Bureau
EMB - European Milk Board
Euroseeds
FEEDM - Fédération Européenne des Emballeurs et Distributeurs de Miel
FEFAC - European Feed Manufacturers Federation / Fédération européenne des fabricants d'aliments composés
FEFANA - EU association of Speciality Feed Ingredients and their mixtures
Freshfel Europe
IBMA - International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association
IFOAM - International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements European Regional Group
IPIFF - International Platform of Insects for Food and Feed
OPTA Europe - Organic Processing and Trade Association
SAFE Europe - Safe Food Advocacy Europe
UNISTOCK - Unistock Europe - Association of Professional Portside Storekeepers in the Food and Feed Chain

<u>OBSERVERS</u>
European Committee of the Regions

