



Brussels,
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Minutes

Meeting of the CDG on Organic Farming 12 May 2023

Chair: AGRI B4

Following organisations were represented: AREFLH, AREPO, BeeLife, CEJA, FEFANA, COGECA, EURAF, CEFIC, CEPM, ECVC, EEB, COPA, FEFAC, ELO, CELCAA, EMB, EOCC, Europatat, Euroseeds, F.E.E.D.M., FESASS, Freshfel, IBMA, IFOAM, IPIFF, SACAR, OPTA Europe, PFP, SFA Europe, UNISTOCK.

European Committee of the Regions attended as Observer.

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

Approved

2. Nature of the meeting

The meeting was non-public.

3. List of points discussed [Name of each point, one by one]

- SCIC Presentation

SCIC colleagues gave a presentation on how to deal with a remote/hybrid conference to be able to perform a better interpretation.

- RoP Approbation

Rules of Procedures were approved.

- Markets – Presentation from COPA and IFOAM

COPA and IFOAM gave a presentation on the current trends of markets, as per presentations attached.

In particular, COPA highlighted the latest trends also put in relation to current political and economic contingencies influencing consumption.

IFOAM gave an overview on the last year trends referring to the growth of the organic sector.

Participants reacted by highlighting the difficult economic situation for consumers to avail of organic products, and costs for farmers to produce. It emerged that sometimes prices paid to organic producers are even lower than what paid to conventional.

On the other hand, the sector asked on the action in place to boost consumption, the Commission explained that from its side, the organic action plan can be a trigger in the longer term to enhance organic consumption all over Europe.

- TRACES

The Commission representative provided the state of play of the use of TRACES organic operator certificate module which the control authorities and the control bodies in the EU have started to use to issue organic operator certificates in TRACES as of 1 January 2023. The Commission representative noted that there have not been many deleted certificates which is often the sign that the system is working properly.

- NTG – Presentation from IFOAM and CEJA

Ifoam and Ceja presented their, diverging, view on the NGTs and their application in organic agriculture. Participants expressed their views.

The presentations were made available to the participants on CIRCA BC. The Commission representative gave an update on the procedure for the draft proposal on NGT.

- Exchange on International and trade in organics

The Commission representative provided an overview of the negotiations in view of concluding international (trade) agreements on equivalence. It reminded that as per Article 48(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848, the equivalences concluded on the basis of Article 33(2) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 shall expire by 31 December 2026. To this end, the Commission was granted an authorisation to open negotiations with: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, India, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Tunisia and the United States. In addition, in order to continue negotiations that were launched in 2016, the Commission was also granted an authorisation concerning Colombia and Mexico. The Commission representative thanked the participants for the information they provided last year concerning trade and other issues related to the above and reminded that any update can be sent to: AGRI-B4@ec.europa.eu. Information was also provided to the participants concerning the reassessment foreseen under the EU-UK TCA on organics.

In addition, the Commission representative gave an overview of the requests for recognition for the purpose of compliance. It reminded that the current regime will expire by 31 December 2024 at the latest. At present very few applications for recognition were received. The Commission representative underlined the need for interested control authorities and control bodies to submit their applications as soon as possible in order to avoid any potential disruptions with the imports of organic products as from January 2025. Each application requires a considerable amount of time in order to be assessed and if successful, a legislative amendment is necessary in order for the control authority/control body concerned to be able to certify products that are to be exported to the EU under the compliance regime.

- General presentation on production rules

The Commission representative presented the main on going work in relation to production rules and their implementation.

The presentation was made available to the participants on CIRCA BC.

- Cleaning and disinfectants

IFOAM presented its position on the authorisation of products of cleaning and disinfection in organic production of processed food. While is necessary to consider consistency with the principles of the organic regulation and limit environmental impacts of certain products. The solution must not block the organic sector neither jeopardise food safety. IFOAM, AISE and FIBL reiterate their proposal to support the Commission and EGTOP to find the best solutions.

The representative of IFOAM mentioned that there was the need to postpone the date of 31 December 2023 set in Regulation (EU) 2021/1165 in order to have more time to set criteria and lists of products for cleaning and disinfection in organic production.

The representatives of the Commission confirmed that a draft implementing act amending Regulation (EU) 2021/1165 and proposing to postpone this date will be discussed at the next Organic production committee on 30 May 2023.

The presentation was made available to the participants on CIRCA BC.

- RELAX and ORGANIC plus

Researchers of the research projects RELACS and Organic PLUS presented their main conclusions and next steps.

RELACS (Replacement of Contentious Inputs in Organic Farming Systems) evaluates solutions to further reduce the use of external inputs and develop cost-efficient and environmentally safe tools and technologies to reduce the use of copper and mineral oil in plant protection, identify sustainable sources for plant nutrition, provide solutions to support livestock health & welfare (Antibiotics & anthelmintic drugs, non-synthetic vitamins).

Organic PLUS looked at contentious inputs in organic production used in plant (copper, mineral oils and sulphur), in livestock (anthelmintics, antibiotics, non organic straw) and soil (peat, plastics for mulching..).

Both presentations were followed by an exchange views between the participants and the researchers. Both presentations were made available to the participants on CIRCA BC.

- Presentation from sector on residues – Point of information
OPTA presented its ongoing work on residues.

- Carbon Credit

The Representative of the Commission inform the participants about the on going discussions related to the Regulation on Carbon Removals Certification (CRC)on Carbon credit. The presentation was made available to the participants on CIRCA BC.

4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions

Guidance

This part of the minutes should include comprehensive information on possible general conclusions reached or recommendations/opinions delivered by the group, including the outcome of a vote.

5. Next steps

Guidance

This part of the minutes should provide comprehensive information on next steps, as agreed during the meeting, including on the issues to be discussed in future meetings, the tasks to be performed by the group and the general timeline.

6. Next meeting

Guidance

This part of the minutes should include information on the date of the next meeting(s).

7. List of participants

Guidance

DGs should ensure that all participants in a given group are informed that the Commission would be processing their personal data. They should do this via the Privacy Statement that is not only published online, but is also provided individually to each participant (e.g. as part of the email where the DG first contacts the individual concerned).

The name of Type A¹ and B² members and observers should always be included in the list of participants pursuant to Article 23 of Commission Decision C(2016)3301.

The name of Type C, D and E members' and observers' representatives may be included in the list, subject to their prior freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous consent (e.g. given in a consent form that they sign for that purpose at each meeting), in compliance with Article 3(15) and Article 7 of Regulation 2018/1725.

DGs have to be able to demonstrate that consent was obtained subject to conditions of Regulation 2018/1725 (i.e. keep a record that shows how the consent was obtained and whether it was valid).

e-signed

Michael PIELKE

¹ Individuals appointed in a personal capacity (C(2016) 3301, art. 7.2 (a)).

² Individuals appointed to represent a common interest shared by stakeholders (C(2016) 3301, art. 7.2 (b)).

List of participants– Minutes
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 12 May 2023

<u>ORGANISATION</u>	
Assemblée des Régions Européennes Fruitières Légumières et Horticoles	AREFLH
Association des régions européennes des produits d'origine	AREPO
Bee Life - European Beekeeping Organisation	BeeLife
Conseil Européen des Jeunes Agriculteurs / European Council of Young Farmers	CEJA
EU association of Speciality Feed Ingredients and their mixtures	FEFANA
European agri-cooperatives / General Confederation of Agricultural Co-operatives of the European Union	COGECA
European Agroforestry Federation	EURAF
European Chemical Industry Council	CEFIC
European Confederation of Maize Producers	CEPM
European Coordination Via Campesina	ECVC
European Environmental Bureau	EEB
European farmers / Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations of the European Union	COPA
European Feed Manufacturers Federation / Fédération européenne des fabricants d'aliments composés	FEFAC
European Landowner's Organisation	ELO
European Liaison Committee for the Agricultural and AGRI-Food Trade	CELCAA
European Milk Board	EMB
European Organic Certifiers Council	EOCC
European Potato Trade Association	Europatat

Euroseeds	Euroseeds
Fédération Européenne des Emballeurs et Distributeurs de Miel	F.E.E.D.M.
Fédération Européenne pour la Santé Animale et la Sécurité Sanitaire	FESASS
Freshfel Europe	Freshfel
International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association	IBMA
International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements European Regional Group	IFOAM
International Platform of Insects for Food and Feed	IPIFF
Joint Secretariat of Agricultural Trade Associations / Secrétariat des Associations du Commerce Agricole Réunies	SACAR
Organic Processing and Trade Association	OPTA Europe
Primary Food Processors	PPF
Safe Food Advocacy Europe	SAFE Europe
Unistock Europe - Association of Professional Portside Storekeepers in the Food and Feed Chain	UNISTOCK
<u>OBSERVERS:</u>	
European Committee of the Regions	
<u>Ad-hoc experts:</u>	
FiBL - Switzerland	
Coventry University, Ryton Organic Gardens - UK	