



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B. Quality, Research and Innovation, Outreach
Director

Brussels,
NV/sn/agri.ddg1.b.4(2018)2400138

For the attention of the Secretary General of:

AREPO, BEUC, CEJA, CELCAA, COGECA, COPA, ECPA, ECVC, EEB, EFA, EFFAT, ELO, EOCC, ERPA, EURAF, EuroCommerce, Eurocoop, FEFANA, FoodDrinkEurope, FTAO, IFOAM, PAN Europe, SACAR, WWF

**INVITATION TO THE MEETING OF THE
«CDG ORGANIC FARMING»**

According to the Decision 2013/767/EU of 16 December 2013, I wish to invite you to the next meeting of the Civil Dialogue Group that will take place

**in Brussels, rue de la Loi 130
11th floor - Meeting room: B
on Wednesday 23 May 2018, from 09:30 to 18:00**

Interpretation foreseen from **FR - DE - EN - IT – ES – PL**
to **FR - DE - EN - IT – ES – PL**

(please note that interpretation of a language will be cancelled if no participants for that language have registered in time for the meeting)

NEW- Registration:

The correspondents of each organisation are kindly asked to designate and register the experts via the **AGM registration system** (3 working days before the meeting at the latest).

The deadline for the registration is Friday 18 May 2018.

Organisation	Number of Seats
AREPO	2
BEUC	2
CEJA	4
CELCAA	4
COGECA	4
COPA	4
ECPA	1
ECVC	2
EEB	3
EFA	1
EFFAT	2
ELO	2

EOCC	2
ERPA	1
EURAF	2
EuroCommerce	1
Eurocoop	1
FEFANA	1
FoodDrinkEurope	4
FTAO	1
IFOAM	4
PAN Europe	1
SACAR	3
WWF	1

NEW - Reimbursement: The experts identified by their Organizations and appointed by DG AGRI will be paid their **travel costs** and a **daily allowance** (see reimbursement details in Annex).

You are kindly requested to consult the rules concerning the reimbursement of experts available on the dedicated CIRCABC Interest Group: [AGRI meetings – reimbursement information](https://circabc.europa.eu) (<https://circabc.europa.eu>).

The reimbursement will be handled via the AGM application.

In case you need further clarification about the AGM system, please do not hesitate to contact or visit the [Portal](#) with some [FAQ](#) or send an e-mail to: EC-AGM-SUPPORT@ec.europa.eu.

Security control: Please note that you will be asked to pass through an obligatory control (x-ray machines and walk-through detectors) when entering the L130 building.

NEW: At the reception you will receive a new paper-based nominative **visitor access passes** which will replace the current non-nominative visitor stickers.

e-signed

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

Annex1: Draft agenda

Annex 2: Reimbursement information

Specific privacy statement for processing of personal data related to Expert Groups is available on CircaBC https://circabc.europa.eu
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Contact:

- **Content:** AGRI-B4@ec.europa.eu
- **Meeting organisation:** AGRI-CIVIL-DIALOGUE-GROUPS@ec.europa.eu



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AGENDA

«CDG ORGANIC FARMING»

**in Brussels, rue de la Loi 130
11th floor - Meeting room: B
on Wednesday 23 May 2018, from 09:30 to 18:00**

1. Adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting and of the agenda
2. Overview from the Commission on the market situation of the organic sector in the EU
3. Revision of the organic farming legislation
 - Information on the state of play of the revision process
 - information on the calendar of implementing and delegated acts
 - Discussion on the main issues that delegated and implementing acts would need to solve as regards production rules
4. Information on the European Action plan: follow up on the implementation of the measures
5. Results of the conference on fraud in organic farming
6. EGTOP activities : state of play
8. Follow up on the EU trade agreements : Mexico
9. AOB

Please send us your AOB questions in due time before the meeting (e-mail: AGRI-B4@ec.europa.eu).

This information sheet is a summary of the Rule* on the reimbursement of expenses incurred by people from outside the Commission invited to attend meetings in an expert capacity.



Who is entitled to a reimbursement of expert's expenses?

- anyone from outside the Commission who is invited to give a specific professional opinion in a committee, an expert group or by personal invitation, wherever the location of the meeting;
- anyone responsible for accompanying a disabled person who has been invited by the Commission to attend a meeting in an expert capacity.

Experts may be private-sector experts (representing the civil society) or government experts (representing a public authority of a Member State).



Unless stated otherwise in the letter of invitation and the request to organise the meeting, private-sector experts shall be entitled to a daily allowance for each day of the meeting and, where appropriate, an accommodation allowance, on condition that they declare on their honour that they are not receiving a similar allowance or similar allowances from the same institution or another Community institution for the same visit.

Government experts shall receive a daily allowance for each day of the meeting and, where appropriate, an accommodation allowance, provided that provision for this is made in the rules of procedure of the committee or expert group and on condition that they declare on their honour that they are not receiving a similar allowance or similar allowances from their own administration for the same visit.

Travel expenses

All experts shall be entitled to the reimbursement of their travel expenses from the place specified in their invitation to the place of the meeting. This travel must be organised on the basis of the most appropriate means of transport and trying to benefit from the most economical travel rates.

The services in charge of reimbursements shall have the right to carry out any checks that might be needed and to request any proof from the expert required for this purpose. They shall also have the right, where it appears to be justified, to restrict reimbursement to the rates normally applied to the usual journey from the expert's place of work or residence to the meeting place. So please do be careful when organising your trip.

As a general rule, means of transport are:

- first-class rail travel for journeys less than 400 km (one way);
- economy class air travel for distances of more than 400 km. Business class is allowed for a flight of 4 hours or more without stopovers;
- private car. The travel shall be reimbursed at the same rate as the first-class rail ticket, or by default at the rate of 0.22 € per km.



Travel expenses shall be reimbursed on presentation of ORIGINAL supporting documents:

- tickets and invoices;
- in the case of online bookings, the printout of the electronic reservation.

The documents supplied must show the class of travel used, the time of travel and the amount paid.

► Taxi fares shall not be reimbursed.

The Commission shall not be liable for any material, non-material or physical damage suffered by invited experts or those responsible for accompanying a disabled expert in the course of their journey to or stay in the place where the meeting is held, unless such harm is directly attributable to the Commission. In particular, invited experts who use their own means of transport for travelling to such meetings shall be entirely liable for any accidents that they might cause.

Daily allowance

The daily allowance is a flat rate. It covers all meals and local transport (bus, tram, metro, taxi, parking, motorway tolls, etc.), as well as travel and accident insurance. It amounts to 92 € per day of meeting.

If the distance between the place of departure cited in the invitation (be it your private or professional address) is 100 km or less from the place where the meeting is held, the daily allowance shall be reduced by 50%. You shall then only receive 46 € per day of meeting.



Accommodation allowance



If you have to spend one or more nights at the place where the meeting is held because the times of meetings are incompatible with the times of flights or trains, you shall also be entitled to an accommodation allowance. This allowance shall be 100 € per night. The number of nights may not exceed the number of meeting days + 1.

An additional accommodation allowance and/or daily allowance may, exceptionally, be paid if prolonging the stay would enable you to obtain a reduction in the cost of transport worth more than the amount of these allowances.



You must provide the secretaries of the meeting with the documents necessary for their reimbursement, as required by the financial rules applicable in the Commission, by letter, fax or e-mail postmarked or dated no later than 30 calendar days after the final day of the meeting.

Beyond this deadline, the Commission is absolved from any obligation to reimburse travel expenses or pay any allowances.

Reimbursements shall be made in euros, where appropriate at the rate of exchange applying on the day of the meeting. All reimbursements shall be made to one and the same bank account. For government experts, reimbursements shall be paid into an account in the name of the Member State, one of its ministries or a public body.



* Commission decision of 5 December 2007