



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B – Sustainability
The Director

Brussels,
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MINUTES CDG

Meeting of the CDG Organic Farming

7 October 2022

Chair: AGRI B4

All organisations were represented except: BEUC, ECPA, EFA, EFFAT, ERPA, EuroCommerce, Eurocoop, FTAO, PAN Europe and WWF

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

2. Nature of the meeting

Meeting was reserved to the CDG members. Meeting was on line.

3. List of points discussed

1.1. Brief market situation (Copa-Cogeca)

COPA-Cogeca presented a brief market situation on organics. The presentation was very much appreciated by the participants. Copa-COGECA was invited to maintain the same point also in the next CDG's.

1.2. Update on draft delegated and implementing acts (production; controls and international) (DG AGRI B4)

The Commission representative presented the latest updates on ongoing legislative proposal and draft delegated and implementing acts related to production and labelling rules for pet food, insects for food and feed other than bees, sea salt and other salts for food and feed and authorized products and substances in organic production. The presentation of the Commission was made available to the members of the CDG on circa bc.

One member of the CDG commented that the short minutes of the Organic Production Committee are not enough detailed. Commission representatives explained that the

objectives of the minutes is to inform about the main points under discussions with the Member States.

One Member of the CDG asked when the Draft Implementing Regulation amending and correcting the list of authorized products and substances would be available on the portal HAVE YOUR SAY. The Commission representative replied that it was planned to be on the portal after mid-October.

One Member of the CDG asked what would be the lapse of time between the vote of the Draft implementing Regulation amending and correcting the list of authorized products and substances and its publication. Commission representative explains that provided there is a positive vote at the Organic Production Committee in November, the text is planned to be published before 31.12.2022.

The Commission representative presented the latest updates and ongoing preparation of implementing provisions related to control.

One Member of the CDG asked whether the comments expressed under feedback mechanism were included in the revised draft implementing act and the annex including the one on the inclusion of not intentional contamination in the Annex template reporting on unauthorised substances.

The Commission representative replied that all relevant comments were analysed in detail and that as regards of this particular request it is not covered by the legislation therefore it is not suitable that it is included in the template.

1.3. Update EGTOP (DG AGRI B4)

The Commission representative presented the last updates of the work performed by EGTOP: latest reports published, future mandates and planning of the future meetings.

One Member of the CDG asked what would be done to follow up the issue of “factory farming”. The Commission representative explained that a new mandate was drafted and sent for comments from the Member States and that an EGTOP meeting will be planned in early 2023.

1.4. International agreements on organic equivalencies – updates and request for contributions (DG AGRI)

The Commission representative updated the participants on the future negotiations concerning trade agreements on organic equivalencies. According to Article 48(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848, the recognition by the EU of third countries, which have been recognised for the purposes of equivalency under Article 33(2) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, shall expire on 31 December 2026. Following the Commission recommendation, the Council with its Decision (EU) 2021/1345¹ of 28 June 2021 authorised the Commission to open negotiations with Argentina, Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, India, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Tunisia and the United States.

The third countries concerned have been informed accordingly and contacts were undertaken in view of launching the negotiations. The possibility to reach an equivalency on the different product categories will depend, among others, on whether the third country disposes of rules for such product categories and ultimately on whether an

¹ COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2021/1345 of 28 June 2021 authorising the opening of negotiations with Argentina, Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, India, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Tunisia and the United States with a view to concluding agreements on trade in organic products (EUOJ L 306, 31-08-2021)

equivalency can be established on the basis of equivalent production rules and controls of equivalent effectiveness. Subject to the successful completion of the negotiations, the future organic equivalencies, in form of trade agreements, will concern imports of products to the EU and exports from the EU to the third countries concerned according to the terms that will be agreed.

DG AGRI/B4 would like in this context to open a dialogue with the Civil Dialogue Group – Organic Farming and seek information from different stakeholders concerning issues of interest as regard the **export** of EU organic products to third countries as well as the **import** of organic products from third countries. A specific template to facilitate answers from the different organisations has been uploaded on CIRCA. The bodies of the Civil Dialogue Group – Organic Farming should send their contributions no later than 30 November 2022 by e-mail to AGRI-B4@ec.europa.eu .

One member of the CDG enquired on priorities for the negotiations. The Commission representative explained that all third countries concerned by the authorisation provided by the Council were invited to negotiate including those third countries where stronger export interest or potential exist.

One member of the CDG referred to the differences in the organic standard between the US and the EU and referred to a possible reluctance from the US side on entering into negotiations. The Commission representative confirmed being in contact with the relevant US authorities for the launch of the negotiations.

One member of the CDG referred to different elements that will need to be taken into account in the negotiations such as concerning controls with the US or India and also referred to the imports of organic products from Australia and the importance of China as an export market. The Commission representative took note of the observations.

1.5. Presentation on the new certificate issuance (DG AGRI)

The Commission representative explained how to issue the certificates in TRACES.

One Member of CDG noted that the QR-code was leading to a site which was not public and that it was necessary to register to have access as well as that the watermark in pdf was wrong in most languages.

Commission representative replied that QR code most probably will be removed. As regards of the wrong language version Commission representative promised to verify the translations and apply corrections.

One Member of CDG asked if CB uploaded their list of operators directly to TRACES, how could CA ensure there are no errors and if it wouldn't better if CA uploaded to TRACES directly?

The Commission replied that it was up to MS how they would organise themselves.

One Member of CDG remarked that language versions cannot be authenticated with e-seal and that some product categories cannot be identified in the certificate e.g. fruit or feed destined for organic use and asked what were there any solutions provided?

As regards the language versions, the Commission representative explained that a sealed document cannot change, and therefore only exists in the languages in which it was generated at the time of sealing. Other languages can be generated on demand in TRACES. They will have the same information content as the sealed certificate, but they will not bear the seal.

As regards the products categories Commission representative responded that in case there are products that are not covered by the listed categories, then the category of products (g) can be used: (g) other products listed in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2018/848 or not covered by the previous categories).

One Member of CDG asked for guidelines on how to fill in certificate explaining that fields with name, surname and name of the operator in language versions were difficult or impossible to identify.

The Commission representative replied that it was going to check the issue and see if any indications could be provided.

1.6. Implications of SUR on organic (presentation of the sector)

Ifoam gave a presentation on the implication of the SUR on the sector

1.7. Update on the Industrial Emissions Directive review (DG ENV)

DG ENV gave a presentation on the update on the industrial emission directive review

1.8. AOB

The Commission representatives informed the CDG members that the document Frequently Asked Questions was recently updated and published on the Commission Website; new questions and answers are available on plant reproductive material, livestock and aquaculture.

[Organics at a glance \(europa.eu\)](http://europa.eu)

Electronically signed

Pierre BASCOU

Enclosures:

Presentation 'Revision of Industrial Emissions Directive' – DG ENV

Presentation 'EGTOP' – DG AGRI

Presentation 'Update on Future Work Production Rules' – DG AGRI

Presentation 'Presentation on the organic market situation' – Copa Cogeca

Presentation 'TRACES operator certificate' – DG AGRI

Presentation 'Update on recent developments and future works' DG AGRI

Presentation 'The Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation (SUR)' IFOAM

List of participants– Minutes
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7 October 2022

Member Organisations
AREPO
CEJA
CELCAA
COGECA
COPA
EEB
ECVC
ELO
EOCC
EURAF
FEFANA
FoodDrinkEurope
IFOAM
SACAR
OPTA – as observer