

Brussels,

FINAL MINUTES

Meeting of the Civil Dialogue Group «Organic Farming »

Date: Wednesday 19 May 2021

Chair: Mr Luigi TOZZI (COPA)

Organisations present: All Organisations were present, except BEUC, EUROCOOP, ECPA, PAN Europe, FTAO and WWF EPO.

1. Approval of the agenda

The group decided to move the point on Organic Action Plan (OAP) and CAP as firsts. Then, the draft agenda was approved.

Moreover, the minutes of the previous meeting (19/10/2020) were adopted by written procedures.

2. Nature of the meeting

The meeting was non-public.

3. List of points discussed

1) State of play of the New Organic Regulation (EU) 2018/848 and its secondary legislation

Elena Panichi (COM) Presented the state of play of the secondary legislation in terms of Delegated Acts (DA) and Implementing Acts (IA) with a detailed list on the complete adoption process (inter-service consultation, feedback mechanisms, translation, adoption, and vote) for each secondary acts on Production Rules, Control, and Trade.

A full presentation is available in CircaBC under the following name: 2021-05-19 - CDG Organic - Point 1 - Secondary legislation.pptm

Jauregui Arepo Juan asked COM about the commission plan and provisions in the following months regarding the annexes for cleaning and disinfection.

Dienel wolfram addressed the issue of the 48 hours of withdrawal period obligation as regards its impact on the production of the organic egg sector. He reported that this problem would have a huge impact and urges the Commission to solve this issue before 1st of January 2021. Second, he asked why chive and tulips are not allowed to be produced during wintertime, whereas chicory has the exception. He concluded that the new organic Regulation should ease the production and not put further obstacles.

Laurence Bonafos (COM) answered that since livestock rules existed, there has been a will to reduce the use of chemically synthesized veterinary medicines and increase the withdrawal periods compared to conventional production reflected in different organic products legislations. In the new Regulation, a recital highlights the will of the Legislators to reduce the use of veterinary medicines. A questionnaire on the current practices on veterinary medicines and withdrawal periods was sent to the MS. It has been reported that different applications exist between MS (some using 48 hours and others zero hours for veterinary medicines with a zero withdrawal period according to their marketing authorisation). She emphasized that it is a question of legal interpretation that needs to be in line with the will of the co-legislators decision and respects to the basic act and ended by clarifying that COM has no empowerments to change these provisions in the legal basic act.

Regarding the question on tulips and chives, she informed that the principle of soil-bound production is fundamental in organic production. Derogations, which are exceptions, were added for only two specific productions in the basic act: sprouted seeds and chicory heads. One the objectives of the reform of organic rules was to reduce the number of derogations. She concluded that COM does not intended to increase the scope of derogations.

CELCAA informed that they would strongly support removing the 48-hour additional withdrawal period for parasite treatments. They reported that support among co-legislators could be reached. They believe that when the recitals were worded, the consequences on the sectors were not clear for co-legislators.

MARET CARINE proposed to have a European harmonized interpretation on the notion of "young poultry".

Bonafos Laurence (COM) informed that a letter of interpretation was sent recently to MS on the notion of "young poultry".

2) Challenges in the application of the New Organic Regulation (EU) 2018/848 from 1 January 2022 – Exchange with the stakeholders

Laurence Bonafos (COM) presented the main challenges foreseen by COM in applying the New Organic Regulation (EU) 2018/848 linked to the production rules. The presentation is not yet uploaded in CircaBC.

She informed that the challenges are due to the changes from the current rules. Moreover, she emphasized that the number of derogations has been decreased (non-organic pullets, fattening beef, organic aquaculture juveniles), adding at the same time new rules (for example, on sprouted seeds, ornamental plants in pots, and rabbits and poultry). Furthermore, new changes have been applied on horizontal matters (veterinary medicines and the withdrawal period, plant protection products, fertilizers etc.). The Commission received several requests for interpretation issues and it will adapt OFIS for database and systems, reports and notifications from MS. The Commission relies a lot on constant dialogue to address these challenges, even outside the Civil Dialogue Group. In addition, the Commission stressed the importance of having straightforward questions on interpretation requests. The Commission will also publish a synthetic table with a short summary of all secondary legislation. A consolidated version of the basic act and the delegated acts amending is planned to be available in 2022.

Regarding the letters of interpretation, COM make them available for MS delegates after a presentation in COP. These interpretation letters reply to specific questions which are not made public.

Luigi Tozzi (COPA COGECA) asked how the Commission will face the future Regulation on insects as feed. Moreover, he asked how to manage the organic manure on conventional fields regarding reducing the use of chemical fertilizers.

The Commission confirmed the interest of the services to propose an act on insects used for feed which would need to be in line with the horizontal Regulation. An important aspect to consider will be the feed to be used in insect production (activity to be coordinated with DG SANTE). Regarding the

Regarding the Annex on fertilizers, the Commission will need to work further in the near future in coordination with Member States, based on the needs expressed by the MS and the sector.

Aurélie Quintin (EOCC) asked for the possibility to update COM website with the last Letters of interpretation as the last version is from October 2019. These interpretation letters are needed and helpful for the sector to be publicly available before 2022. The Commission replied that the amount of work is very high and they have to prioritize tasks Commission is working on publishing Frequently Asked Questions on the website.

Michel Reynaud (IFOAM Organics Europe) thanked COM for well addressing the challenges. He informed that IFOAM Organics Europe is eager to cooperate. He followed highlighting the challenges on control concerning the Border control points, and asked if a solution is to make it compulsory for the products submitted to the SPS check.

Chris Atkinson (IFOAM Organics Europe) notified that the presented challenges are very well-identified in the presentation and welcomed this careful analysis. He mentioned that representatives of the sector are also closely in touch with those who can also help with the interpretations and are always ready to assist the Commission. He concluded by emphasizing that the identified issues should be addressed as soon as possible.

DG SANTE representative introduced the activity of the plant (10 main species). After a technical step, the services of DG SANTE contacted stakeholders to exchange views on how certain varieties (carrot and carabi) could be addressed in the US protocol variety testing. DG SANTE is now currently discussion how we can adapt and implement the US protocol on these two spices.

Jauregui Arepo Juan asked about the reasons of the derogations. DG Sante representative answered that the market directives in relation to seeds and varieties like the DUS (distinct, uniform, stable) criteria should be fulfilled. For arable crops, the VCU (Value of Cultivation and Use) tests are required. In the organic Regulation, the definition of variety is different in this respect where it is characterized by highly genetic structure. In this respect the organic variety cannot answer the VCU nor DUS requirements. Therefore, COM is looking for more organic way to test the organic varieties.

3) Outlook: Organic Regulation priorities after 1 January 2022

Laurence Bonafos (COM) presented its priorities after the 1st January 2022: delegated act on salt and insects, new EGTOP group (covering new areas) and continuing working on previous areas (fertilisers). Before 1st January 2022, the Commission is planning to

publish implementing act on "mass balance", one on annexes (listing authorized products and substances, fertilisers etc.), a delegated act on record keeping and a delegated act supplementing as regards to organic heterogeneous plant reproductive material. Regarding the period after 1st January 2022, the Commission is planning to publish delegated acts on production rules on salt, insect, products for cleaning and disinfection. Furthermore, there will be a constant review of implementing acts listing authorized products and substances on annexes to introduce new entries.

Antoine Faure (EOCC) reminded the importance to work on the specific inputs for third countries in activating the specific secondary act for third countries and outermost regions;

Luca Capodice (FEFANA) asked if it is possible to know which countries are proposing new products to enter the list of products and substances allowed in the legislation. **COM** replied that under new Regulation (art. 24,7) the dossier will be made public (respecting data protection legislation).

Guyot Marie asked about the plan concerning data bases as regards the availability at EU and national level of organic pullets and organic day old chicks.

Chris Atkinson (IFOAM Organics Europe) welcomed this list of future legal acts and the intention to recruit experts on livestock. He informed that IFOAM Organics Europe would like priority to be given to the development of rules on insects for food and feed.

4) Brexit: update

Elena Panichi (COM) gave a quick update on the Brexit. She mentioned that following the withdrawal of the UK and the end of the transition period, UK organic products are organic products coming from a third country, as any other. COM recognised 6 UK CBs through REG 2020/2196 that have been listed in Annex IV (effective on 01.01.2021). After this, the EU and the UK agreed in the TCA on a mutual recognition of their organic systems. The TCA applied provisionally since 1.1.2021 and entered into force on 01.05.2021. The six CBs notified by the UK under the terms of Annex 14 of the TCA are the same that were listed by the COM in Annex IV of R. 1235/2008 in December 2020. Since 1 January 2021, when the TCA started to apply, the six CBs notified by the UK can issue CoIs through the Traces system. COM will amend 1235/2008 accordingly. It will be finalised in the next weeks and should be voted during COP July meeting.

Antoine Faure (EOCC) asked if until the amendment is voted, the two systems of annex III and IV would coexist. Moreover, he demanded a piece of clarification and asks to confirm that the 6 UK CBs will have a Traces access.

Chris Atkinson (IFOAM Organics Europe) asked if the Commission is willing to also cover products which are currently out of scope. **COM** stated that the organics equivalence agreement between the EU and the UK is already very wide in scope.

5) Sesame from India and ETO

COM presented the state of play on sesame seed from India. There is a substantial number of notifications concerning sesame seed contaminated with ETO from India. COM has been notified by an increasing number of complaints about ETO sesame coming from India. Regarding Annex III (APEDA as competent authority India's competence), the Commission has contacted the competent authority and asked it to start immediate actions to investigate the root of the problem affecting the sesame imports from India on control

bodies, preventing this from happening in the future. Regarding Annex IV, the Commission asked for an immediate investigations from all Control Bodies as well at EU level.

The full presentation is available in circa: 2021-05-19 - CDG Organic - Point 5 - REV India sesame

Michel Reynaud (IFOAM Organics) Europe asked if the Commission has consolidated results of the investigation conducted in annexes III and IV and if the Commission will share the results with stakeholders. In addition, he asked if the Commission is planning to investigate more to understand better India's situation regarding conventional and organic sesame, like what happened for the salmonella issue. **COM** ensured that measures would be equally undertaken for Annex III and IV, and an audit will be launched as soon as the sanitary conditions allow. However, COM does not have an in depth review of the investigation and could not share the consolidated version.

Michel Reynaud (IFOAM Organics Europe) informed that investigations have been done on annex III and IV and that there was an audit on DG SANTA on salmonella. Therefore, he asked if there would be an investigation on this regards.

Kullik Martin (SACAR) pointed out the ongoing rumor about COM's intention to decertify all organic products with ETO above the detection level, not only sesame from India. He asked COM about the legal basis.

Roberto Pinton (IFOAM Organics Europe), ETO apart, asked for the modification of the communication in the subject in order to restore consistency with the current Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and the new Regulation (EU) 2018/848. IFOAM OE finds the Commission's approach in contrast with what is written in the EU organic Regulations. The letter requests the downgrading of every organic sesame seed product from India, where any residue of ETO above the LOQ and any other pesticides are detected in one single sample. The investigation of whether the residues really indicate non-compliance is not even mentioned. HE shared his concerns that the tendency could be to apply indiscriminately this approach of downgrading products that exceed the LOQ to any active substance without any prior investigation, constituting a forcing. Article 29(4) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 indicates that a report - accompanied, where appropriate, by a legislative proposal - needs to be presented by 31 December 2025 in order to hold an in-depth debate with the European Parliament and the Council on how to manage the presence of non-authorized products and substances in organic products.

COM stressed that the basic principles of organic production stand on minimizing the use of inputs and that ETO is not an authorized product. COM underlined that (1) no organic labelling in case of irregularities, (2) no marketing of organic product in case of infringements, and (3) sanctions in case of fraud. COM informed the increase of notification via OFIS and the rise of products' volume, which reflects intentional use of ETO and repetition of involvements of same operators and shows unprecedented contamination.

6) EOCC presentation 'Switch from equivalence to compliance'

Antoine Faure (EOCC) presented the EU regulatory changes and their effect on international trade. The presentation includes details on:

- New import regimes
- Steps to change from the current to the new system
- Clarification of the basic act
- Challenges in the application of requirements
- Recognition process
- Expected schedule

The entire presentation is available in CircaBC under the following name: 2021-05-19 - CDG Organic - Point 6 - REV EOCC presentation

Elina Panichi (COM) thanked EOCC for the presentation. She informed that the changes are expected and that there are 3 years for a smooth transition. She added that the acts are in the feedback mechanisms and will be published soon without substantial changes, which can be considered almost finalized. She notified that COM is open for discussion and asked about a complete dossier for recognition, as complaints are increasing regarding those dossiers' length. She concluded by informing that a meeting with Certification Bodies (CB) and Accreditation Bodies (AB) is foreseen to take place in October (life or virtual depending on the covid-19 development and availability of the rooms).

Michel Reynaud (IFOAM Organics Europe) thanked EOCC for the excellent presentation. He followed that specific guidelines to reach harmonization in Third Country (TC) are needed as pointed out several times in EOCC presentation. The guideline should cover, among others, derogations responsibilities to CBs, GMO issue, flavoring, accreditation period. He asked if COM foresees, once all secondary acts are finalized by 2022, to work with the sector on guidelines. He concluded that IFOAM Organics Europe supports the approach guidelines, which are the most appropriate tools at this level.

Roberto Pinton (IFOAM Organics Europe) pointed out the necessity of developing new Trade Agreements between EU and third countries in time to avoid market disturbances.

7) New EU Organic Action Plan

Henri Delanghe Henri (COM) presented the Action Plan for the Development of Organic Production (COM(2021) 141). This was adopted by the Commission within the context of the European Green Deal and of the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies, which both gave a presentation on the development EU Organic Action plan (OAP) that started by the EU Green Deal (GD) and its two strategies (which contains the specific and ambitious targets on organic production, namely: to achieve (1) at least 25% of EU agricultural land managed organically by 2030, and (2) a significant increase of organic aquaculture agriculture. If the current trends were extrapolated, the EU would reach 15-18% of organic agricultural land by 2030s with significant differences between EU MS. Therefore, the OAP helps EU MS to bridge the difference of 10% between extrapolation and objective.

The COM presentation highlights 23 actions presented under the following main axes:

- Axis 1: organic food and products for all: stimulate demand and ensure consumer trust.
- Axis 2: on the way to 2030: stimulating conversion and reinforcing the entire value chain.
- Axis 3: organics leading by example: improving the contribution of organic farming to sustainability.

The entire presentation is available in CircaBC under the following name: 2021-05-19 - CDG ORGANIC - POINT 7 - OAP_STANDARD.PPTX.

Benitez Castano Jose Manuel (ECVEC) informed COM that Via Campesina considers the OAP as a positive achievement. ECVC highlighted the importance of heterogeneous materials as their main interest is their adversity and the capacity to adapt to the local conditions that should be considered. Moreover, in the farm to fork strategy, the EU should provide financial support, especially for small producers, to face the high certification cost. The fundings should not only be in the hands of the national level, but a specific line in the strategic plan should be dedicated to face these issues (direct sales, short channels etc...).

Michel Reynaud (IFOAM OE) informed that IFOAM OE welcomes the new OAP as it uses a push-pull approach to increase the production and consumption of organic products. IFOAM OE also recognizes the improvements made compared to the previous OAP as there are time-bound objectives for almost all proposed actions, most with more straightforward responsibilities. IFOAM OE stresses the importance of cooperation with MS, region, and local levels to successfully implement this OAP. It is particularly important when it comes to the stated minimum mandatory criteria for organic in Green Public procurement. Finally, he reported that IFOAM OE prepared a [simplified infographic](#) (shared in the chat box) presenting the most relevant actions regarding their potential contribution to the F2F targets. In this context, we are eager to collaborate with the Commission and stakeholders in order to make the new EU OAP as successful as possible.

ELO supports the OAP. The promotion measures should be there for domestic production. He highlighted that the positive environmental impacts and the animal welfare issues were highlighted today as in the F2F strategy and asked whether the current legislation is environmental enough regarding legal basis. Moreover, he reported a growth in the organic animal industry in Germany, reaching an annual increase of 20% in some cases. Therefore, he reported ELO concern about the new organic rules and asked COM if these rules would be adequate to support such growth or represent burdens.

Jaanna asked when the COM will officially publish the communication on these actions.

Delanghe Henri (COM) thanked the attendees for their remarks and questions. COM agreed that the financial support is important. It is important to distinguish between two things: support measures that can be taken under the which are divided into two axes: things in line with the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and other measures that go beyond the CAP. The two axes have a different legal standing content. For all the measures that the CAP could support, the EU COM asked the Member States for ambitious national targets in their CAP national strategy plans for each GD national targets (including the organic farming) and to set out all measures they could take under the CAP to support the achievement of these targets.

He informed that the CAP national strategic plans would have to be formally submitted by EU MS and assessed by the COM to check the specific targets and all measures to be supported under the CAP in terms of consistency before being approved. For everything beyond the CAP, COM invited MS to develop their national organic action strategy plan and will be pleased to support the development and update of these Plans. The two plans (The CAP national strategic plan and the national organic action strategic plan) should be set up by MS in a comprehensive way to include all measures to support the organic productions.

Regarding promotion policy, COM favors increasing the demand through this program, and it assured participants that only EU products would benefit from this scheme. COM followed by highlighting the importance of minimizing the obstacles to the growth of

supply and respecting the balance of supply and demand. Indeed, he informed that the legislation should not always be reopened, and the basic principles and the integrity of the organic products should be fully respected.

As regards the official publication, COM informed that progress reports would be published every two years with midterm reviews and dedicated events. Each action has a different calendar; Promotion Policy is on an annual program basis. The school scheme review will be finalized in 2023.

Elvira Forsstroem (COPA COGECA) urged to have a promotion policy that supports domestic production when the Commission will start publishing communications linked to the Action Plan and clarification on the concept of "Biodiscrit" in line with action 14.

Delanghe Henri (COM) replied that regarding financial support, CAP and National Strategic Plans (NSP) would be the key tools; however, the legal context will be different (MS will submit NSP, and the Commission will assess it. Regarding promotion policy, COM favors increasing the demand through this program and assured participants that only EU products would benefit from this scheme. In addition, COM will monitor arrangements and every two years, plus a mid-term evaluation. Regarding Biodistrict, COM will develop a concrete definition in collaboration with MS.

Luigi Tozzi (COPA) welcomed the fact that the Commission is looking for the development of organic farming and asked if the demand is sufficient to reach the objectives or if the objectives should be looked up again.

Delanghe Henri (COM) answered that the demand is creasing by 10 to 20% by year. However, the supply cannot follow according to EU Commerce. He added that demand and supply of organic products are not sufficiently coordinated at the moment, that's why the attention is on optimizing the supply chain. We have to ensure that the supply chain could support the demand.

Roberto Pinton (IFOAM Organics Europe) shared that the great potential of group certification in the EU risks being weakened by the provisions: the minimum of 10 members, control of all members. He shared that if a small local group of 10 small farms, each member has to be inspected (plus 10% of additional inspections), there is no reduction in the cost of certification. He stressed out that these provisions would not help the conversion of farmers and the achievement of the objectives of increasing the EU organic land to reach 35% by 2030.

Tonci Ukas (COM) stated that this resulted from long negotiations with MS and pointed out the 5% of external inspections set for small groups, which would not even mean 1 member.

Andersen Lone (COPACEGECA) thanked the Commission for the presentation and highlighted the amount of work that all stakeholders are ahead of to achieve the OAP objectives and for its successful implementation.

Rombouts Piet pointed out that stimulating organic farming could be done via agroforestry, an instrument to achieve other policy goals as biodiversity or water- and soil goals.

8) Promotion Policy

Christina Gerstgrasser (COM) gave a presentation on the review of promotion policy and the three communications adopted by COM since May of last May that refer to how the review of the promotion policy can enhance the contribution to key political priorities of COM: (1) the farm to form strategy, (2) The EU beating cancer plan and (3) the EU trade policy review. The organic action plan has also been added, which calls promotion policy to play a fundamental role to enhance the sector.

She informed that the COM, in its report to the Parliament and Council, recommended reviewing how the promotion policy could be more aligned with the other policy and become an important tool to deliver on the objectives of the farm to form strategy and provide incentives for the transition to more sustainable sector. She reported that the EU survey conducted in 2020 on citizens' expectations on food for the future shows the support for practically informing and promoting food sustainability.

The farm to form strategy requires that the promotion policy review increase the contribution of the policy to sustainable production and consumption and involving diet. The EU beating cancer plan expands this call for review and asks it to be in line with the shift to a more plant-based diet. Finally, the EU trade policy review commits COM to continue its support to the agri-food sector by promoting the sustainability and the quality of the EU agriculture products.

She notified that the policy review process is still under public consultation until the 23rd of June. On the 12 and 13th of July, an online conference will be organized to bring together various stakeholders to exchange. She also shared the feedback on the roadmap from public consultation. COM reported that the impact assessment would be completed by the end of November to be addressed to the scrutiny board. Finally, she reported that if positive opinions from the regulatory scrutiny board, the legislative act would be finalized at the earliest at the first quarter of 2022.

The full presentation is not yet uploaded in CircaBC.

Luigi Tozzi (COPACOGECA) informed that the promotion policy is part of the OAP but seems to go in two divergent directions. He reported a risk that the promotion policy is done to a minor degree for organics as he reported a doubt on the progress making in agriculture in general.

The promotion policy covers only the EU origin products, and the proposal should point out the expected impacts of the promotion impact (increase competitiveness and awareness of the features). She added that the programs submitted by proposing organizations are required to highlight the EU origins of the organic scheme and how these objectives will be reached.

Björkbom Camilla asked about the process after the stakeholder conference and when will MS be consulted.

Christina Gerstgrasser (COM) answered that the stakeholder conference of 12 and 13 July would help collect inputs for the impact assessments received via public consultations and meetings. She added that COM received feedback from MS on the roadmap. She informed that it would be covered with the evaluation, which will be on the last year.

Michel Reynaud (IFOAM Organics Europe) informed that IFOAM Organics Europe welcomes the ringfencing of a dedicated budget for organic in the context of promotion policies in 2021. It is an essential part of the push-pull strategy we advocated for to develop OF in Europe in line with the 25% target as reflected in the OAP. He stressed that in order to continuously boost the demand for organic products and thus be in line with the objectives of the Farm to Fork strategy, the same level of ringfencing must also be kept in the years to come. He informed that IFOAM Organics Europe would contribute to promoting the calls for the promotion of organic products within the organic sector and beyond.

Roberto Pinton (IFOAM Organics Europe) highlighted that nobody has never disputed the fact that many PGI products have non-EU ingredients. And he questioned why is it an issue only for organic products.

Christina Gerstgrasser (COM) highlighted that the Regulation does not cover the issues of ingredients. The latest clearly indicates in its annex the products that are eligible and otherwise, Annex I on the treaty of the function of the EU which applies, all of these are products that could be promoted, besides tobacco.

9) CAP

COM updated on the latest information linked to the future of CAP. Last October, The EU parliament and the Council voted on the position. Since then, the trialogue has started to reach the final agreement. The 25th and 26th will be the final trialogue to finalize the agreement, and the real details will be known. Regarding the policy discussion, there are agreements on the big picture: CAP strategy plans to put together the first and second pillars programmed for the period between 2023 until 2027 under the new mechanisms for performance rather than compliance.

However, COM added that there are some differences. The real implementation, in terms of to what extends MS have more freedom in organizing their control systems or leave this control at EU level. The Council was supporting the ideas of the Commission to give the control to MS. The COM plans should be sent to the Commission before the 31st of December of this year to be approved formally by the Commission and enter into force by 2023. For that moment, there will be a mechanism of monitoring which has been agreed by co-legislators, meaning that every year MS would need to report to the Commission. Moreover, there is a performing review that coordinates com and MS to discuss the improvements and monitoring followed by indicators.

There is also the targeting of the direct payment (distribution of direct support) where different approaches by the co-legislators are discussed: The EU Council agreed that the maximum level of holding (150 000 euro) would be voluntary of MS as part of the MFF package. However, the EU Council and Parliament agreed that there would be a need to share the overall direct payments, which would have to be distributed from the large farms to the smaller ones (middle and small farms) under the redistributive payments. The exact distribution amount is still under discussion.

COM reported another essential element stands on generic farms where COM hopes that MS will accept a compulsory definition where freedom for MS is proposed to bring more details into this definition with the possibility to have a negative list (or not). Moreover, COM reported other elements linked to the direct support that is not yet finalized, like the list of products under CAP support and the final conversion level that is still far from one single rate across all MS. In line with the latest point, COM said that the EU Parliament

would like a final full fixed conversion by the end of this period, whereas the EU Council would like to give the freedom to MS. COM concluded that the final level of conversion would be concluded by the end of the negotiation.

Regarding the green architecture, COM reported that, for the first time in the history of the CAP, the first and second pillar support under the same single approach based on the need and SWOT analysis with an agreement on this approach. COM reported that the agreement had been done on three main elements: (1) The level of conditionality: the main compulsory requirements to every single farmer for direct support. There are discrepancies between Parliament and Council, for example, (a) guide 8: the crop rotation where COM and EU Parliament wants that all farmers who get their payments have to engage in crop rotation while the Council would like this point to be more flexible. Another element is (b) guide 9: the surface of each devoted for non-productive elements without an agreement.

Moreover, COM highlighted (2) the eco-schemes that will play a very important role in the future CAP that will be part shared of the direct payment devoted to agro-environment practices under two ways: (a) The classical methodology of agro environment which will be compensated, and (b) the incentives which is a top-up and more flexible in terms of amount. The level of details in eco schemes is also under discussion where there is a consensus emerging about the big list of actions already published in January. On this second point, the big issue still under discussion is the level of money dedicated to eco scheme where the EU Council asked for 20% with mechanisms that the non-spent funds can be reused, whereas the Parliament asked for 30%.

Finally, COM reported the ongoing discussion on the common market organization: COM thinks that there is a potential to get a good agreement on the management supply and improve some mechanisms on the wine (for example).

COM invited stakeholders to be active in drafting the CAP strategy plan as they will be consulted at the national level.

Roberto Pinton (IFOAM Organics Europe) reported that organic farmers must support both CAP pillars (1st pillar Eco-schemes, second pillar Agri-Environment schemes). In addition to the environmental conditionality, IFOAM OE said that they are in favor of the inclusion of a social conditionality (to make sure workers rights are supported in the EU) and supports the Parliament's proposal presenting a new social dimension for the CAP aiming to build the best practice for employment conditions, employer obligations and occupational health and safety into the CAP. IFOAM OE believes that the key topic would be to include Green deal targets in the CAP on organic farming, pesticides, and microbial. Indeed, Member States should integrate into their CAP national plans an analysis of the situation and a strategy to increase organic land & reach other EU targets.

10) EGTOP programme

Bass Drukker (COM) gave an update of EGTOP meetings until the end of its mandate in terms of agenda. He informed that pending reports (5) would be finalized by the end of June. The Commission will adopt a new EGTOP Decision setting the functioning rules of the group and then there will be the call for new experts.

The entire presentation is available in CircaBC under the following name: 2021-05-19 - CDG Organic - Point 10 - EGTOP news.pptx

Luca Capodiec (FEFANA) thanked the COM for the presentation and welcomed the announced new EGTOP decision as as the goal it to boost transparency on applicable rules. Moreover, commenting on the “new requests received by EGTOP” on feed ingredients listed in the EC presentation, he asked for more information and possibly the experts' opinions on the listed “methionine pet-food”.

Jauregui Arepo Juan asked about the COM plan as regards the annexes for cleaning and disinfection.

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 - Annex

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).

Disclaimer

"The opinions expressed in this report represent the point of view of the meeting participants from agriculturally related NGOs at community level. These opinions cannot, under any circumstances, be attributed to the European Commission. Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission is responsible for the use which might be made of the here above information."

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 registered participants– Minutes

Meeting of the Civil Dialogue Group «Organic Farming »

Date: Wednesday 19 May 2021

Member Organisations	Number of Persons
AREPO	2
CEJA	4
CELCAA	4
COGECA	4
COPA	4
ECVC	2
EEB	1
EFFAT	1
ELO	2
EOCC	3
ERPA	1
EURAF	2
EuroCommerce	2
Eurogroup for Animals	1
FEFANA	1
FoodDrinkEurope	4
IFOAM	3
SACAR	3

