**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- **3** WELCOME NOTE
- **4** POLITICAL HOTSPOT
- **6** NEWS FROM IFOAM EU WORKING FIELDS
  - 1.1 Regulation
  - 1.2 Policy
  - 1.3 EU Research & Innovation Policy/TP Organics
  - 1.4 BioFach 2014: Into Organic
- **13** EVENTS
  - 2.1 Preview of events
  - 2.2 Review of events
- **14** MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC – SUPPORT IFOAM EU
- **15** CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Around 30,000 protesters gathered to demonstrate against industrialization of the food industry during the Green Week in Berlin © Good Food Good Farming
Dear members,

In 2012 the European Commission has been carrying out a revision of the EU Regulation on Organic Farming. From this process Commissioner Ciolos obviously has concluded that there is a need for major changes: A draft for a complete new regulation is currently discussed among the services of the EU Commission. Significant amendments like a radical cut of exemptions and the empowerment to set separate threshold for pesticide residues in organic products are under discussion. The Commission is expected to publish its legislative proposal in March.

IFOAM EU has always been supporting the objective to further improve the organic regulation and has made several concrete suggestions to do so. Additional to the improvement and harmonization of the standards on greenhouse and glasshouse production – which the commission has put on hold for the time being – IFOAM EU suggests for example:

- Increasing the effectiveness of controls of European and third country operators
- Moving to a ‘100% organic ingredients’ approach (away from a ‘95% approach’), cutting the list of non-organic ingredients by half in organic processing and improving origin labelling
- Reducing exceptional rules and increasing transparency in the regulation using a step-by-step approach
- Introducing requirements for measuring environmental performance by organic processors and traders
- Enabling group certification for small farmers in Europe

At the same time IFOAM EU Group is warning that a radical cut of flexibility provisions, rather than steady progress, would seriously harm the organic sector. For example the use of conventional seed, breeding and propagating material as well as protein feed in case of unavailability would diminish organic production dramatically while the underlying problems would remain to be unsolved. Furthermore, a new regulation with a different structure would lead to a situation of insecurity and carries risks of mistakes and would make new legal interpretation necessary, while it is not needed for improving the status quo. Therefore, IFOAM EU has not opted for a new regulation, but is advocating for a focused improvement of the existing regulation.

IFOAM EU and the EU Commission are united by the idea to improve the Organic Regulation and develop organic further. The assessments on the best approach to achieve this objective do differ very much. Nevertheless, a new and ambitious European Organic Action Plan, that enables the organic sector to achieve envisaged improvements and continue to grow, is needed.

In March, a long lasting process will be kicked off, leading to a revised legal framework for Organic Farming by most likely 2016 or 2017. There are opportunities, but also lot of risks associated with it. But I am convinced that the organic idea will guide us securely and IFOAM EU, representing the organic movement will achieve a solid basis for making Europe more organic.

Thomas Fertl
Vice President IFOAM EU
EU COMMISSION DRAFTS PROPOSAL FOR A NEW EUROPEAN ORGANIC REGULATION

The European Directorate-General for Agriculture has drafted a legal proposal for a new organic regulation to replace the current legal organic framework (EC 834/07) to be published together with a new organic action plan in March. An inter-service consultation of the different Directorates of the EU Commission is now assessing this proposal.

In terms of structure, the regulation seems to bring together the three regulations currently governing organic – one Council regulation and two Commission regulations – into one regulation with annexes that can be changed by the Commission using delegated acts.

The biggest changes seem to be related to primary production, since all exceptional production rules would end, except the ones needed in case of catastrophic circumstances. As well, very sensitive areas in which availability and quality for organic are of serious concern – such as seed & propagating material, protein feed and young poultry – would no longer be treated as such.

It will be mandatory to convert the entire holding to organic, which could especially prevent large and highly diversified farms from converting. Retroactive recognition of the conversion period will disappear, meaning that farmers will be required to wait 2–3 years to sell produce as organic, even when the fields were previously uncultivated and there is evidence that they have not been treated in the past years.

Requirements on feed have been made stricter and e.g. 90% of the feed for herbivores would have to come from the same farm or from the region, without defining what a ‘region’ is.

These requirements would make it more difficult could prevent farmers from converting, especially without well planned transition rules supported by governmental policies and financial support.

Analysing the rest of the food chain, certification of retailers and wholesalers would be mandatory. Today this is a decision left to the individual Member States. All operators, except primary producers, would be required to measure their environmental performance (IFOAM EU position 2012) and it seems that fortification of aliments would be possible (e.g. adding vitamins to juices or cereal bars). Labelling would be clarified a bit and the percentage of tolerance for the “EU” or “non-EU” indication has been raised from 2% to 5% (IFOAM EU proposal 2012).

The control system is completely left to the ongoing revision of DG SANCO proposal on official controls, creating an unclear situation which is very difficult to assess. This is especially notable as reinforcing controls has regularly been given as a key reason given by the Commission to start the review. It does however seem there would be the possibility to establish a threshold for non-authorised substances and products and to abandon the concept of annual inspection, one of the cornerstones of consumer trust in organic farming. Import requirements would also change, limiting the concept of equivalence and expanding the concept of compliance all over the world.

We particularly welcome that the Commission has taken up the call from the organic sector at the IFOAM EU 7th European Organic Congress to draft a new European Organic Action Plan. In general, the action plan draft gives a good framework for support and promotion of organic farming. However, it could go farther towards supporting the implementation of its suggestions by being more concrete, dedicating funding and activities – so that what it outlines is actually put in place. As well, that organic farming can actually be used to respond to pressing challenges such as climate change, water pollution, loss of biodiversity and could maybe used to pioneer in fields such as sustainability and animal welfare seems to have been left out.

The draft legislative proposal, would introduce group certification for European farmers for the first time. This will give access to the organic system to many small European farmers, with less than 5 hectares.
IFOAM EU position

IFOAM EU believes that this review is an opportunity to bring the regulation and implementing rules up-to-date to match the dynamic developments of the sector and bridge the specific needs that have been identified. However, the current legislative framework provides a solid basis for organic production and consumer confidence. Moreover its implementation potential is not yet fully exploited. IFOAM EU therefore recommends a focused improvement of the existing framework. A completely new regulation carries with it the risks of introducing interpretations that contradict current ones and of introducing technical mistakes. Thus, a complete legal overhaul as favoured by the Commission would force organic operators to farm and produce under legal uncertainty for years while the implications of the new framework were being worked out.

Backed by the organic sector, the most important points of improvement to the current framework identified by IFOAM EU are:

- Increasing the effectiveness of controls of European and third country operators
- Moving to a ‘100% organic ingredients’ approach (away from a ‘95% approach’), cutting the list of non-organic ingredients by half in organic processing and improving origin labelling
- Reducing exceptional rules and increasing transparency in the regulation using a step-by-step approach
- Introducing requirements for measuring environmental performance by organic processors and traders
- Enabling group certification for small farmers in Europe
- Developing a new ambitious European Organic Action Plan that enables the organic sector to achieve envisaged improvements and continue to grow. IFOAM EU welcomes the Commission taking up this call from the sector and it should make sure any proposed action plan be resolutely implemented and provide political and financial measures for organic research and innovation, education and training, information and promotion

For more detailed recommendations and assessments, please refer to the suggested IFOAM EU policy option for the regulation and the IFOAM EU dossier on the Review of the Legal and Political Framework for Organic Farming

Concrete, feasible proposals for handling exceptions in the new organic regulation

Since the EU Commission began the process of reviewing the existing Organic Regulation, (EC) No 834/2007 in 2012, IFOAM EU has actively participated in the EU Commission’s organic regulation review process by providing concrete, detailed input and suggestions how to improve the current legal framework to make organic production fit for the near future.

For example, in an official letter, IFOAM EU proposes concrete measures on how to move towards “100% of organic ingredients” in organic food processing and how to reduce the exceptional rules in the organic regulations, with a focus on increasing consumer trust and feasibility for the sector. Exceptional rules on the use of non-organic seed, non-organic young animals, protein feed and other flexibility tools are likely not be included in the reviewed regulation (a legal proposal expected to be published next March) as the Commission has decided that the new organic regulation must be the “principle-driven”. IFOAM EU proposed a feasible and progressive way on how to deal with exceptional rules. Read the IFOAM EU proposals.
1 NEWS FROM IFOAM EU WORKING FIELDS

1.1 REGULATION

NEW EU REGULATION ON CONTROLS CAME INTO AS OF 1 JANUARY 2014


In general, the changes to article 92 are meant to improve transparency and communication between all the control stakeholders (Commission, Competent Authorities and Control Bodies). Additional commitments of communication from the operator to the control body are added in the amendment of article 68. This amendment also interestingly allows for the possibility of using electronic certification if a tamper-proof electronic method is employed.

Important new requirements concerning control body activities are:

- The number of samples to be taken and analysed by the control body every year shall correspond to at least 5% of the number of operators under its control
- Additional random control visits must account for at least 10% of their controlled operators, with these visits being targeted at higher risk operators
- At least 10% of all inspections and visits carried out have to be unannounced

NEW FOOD AND VETERINARY OFFICE REPORTS AVAILABLE

The list of reports on audits carried out by the “Food and Veterinary Office” of the European Commission on the organic control systems of Member States and Equivalent Third Countries has been updated. The following new reports are now available on the Commission website:

- Poland (2012)
- Portugal (2012)
- India (2012)
- Tunisia (2012)
- Germany (2013)
- Israel (2013)
- Italy (2013)
- Romania (2013)
- United Kingdom (2013)

In 2013, audits were also carried out in France, Greece, Spain and Switzerland, but reports are not available yet. According to the plan in 2014, visits will take place in the Czech Republic, Finland the Netherlands and Slovakia as well as in the following equivalent third countries: Argentina, Australia and Canada.
1.2 POLICY

CAP

DECISION ON NEW CAP IMPLEMENTING RULES EXPECTED BY MID-2014

Rules setting out the details and conditions for the implementation of the new CAP in Member States and regions are expected to be ready by mid-2014. The implementing rules include delegated acts and implementing acts to lay down further details on certain articles, according to the reference in the basic legal texts.

Delegated acts: The European Commission has stated that it intends to adopt these in March. For delegated acts the European Parliament and the AGRI Council have the right to object over a 2-month period. The period can be extended by a further 2 months if a request is made. The decision on delegated acts is expected by April/May, but the process could extend into June/July.

Implementing acts: These accompany the delegated acts and are agreed between the Commission and Member State expert representatives. They will follow soon after the adoption of the delegated acts by the Commission.

It is understood that all EU Institutions are keen to have the rules decided as soon as possible ahead of European Parliament Elections and appointment of a new college of Commissioners.

For IFOAM EU, organic farmers and environmentalists, the points are the delegated acts related to the relationship between the Pillar 1 greening recognition for organic farmers, and the calculation of Pillar 2 organic farming support under the rural development regulation. Another key priority is the need to close a loophole in the direct payment regulation which could permit the use of synthetic pesticides and fertiliser on ecological focus areas under Pillar 1 greening when nitrogen-fixing crops are grown.

Need to ensure that delegated acts support the development of organic farming and agro-ecological approaches

As reported in the December issue of this newsletter, IFOAM EU has called on the Commission to use the CAP delegated acts to ensure that Member States take account of local circumstances and that only specific greening overlaps relevant to organic farming be considered when calculating Pillar 2 organic farming support. The greening recognition must send a clear signal about the EU’s commitment to sustainability and organic farming; failing to provide support via Pillar 2 would send the opposite message.

Additionally, the chair of the European Parliament’s Agriculture Committee and a majority of Member States have questioned the Commission’s interpretation in the drafted delegated acts of the final political agreement on CAP legislative text reached last June. While no statement on specific points has been issued by the European Parliament, a joint letter by 22 Member States to the Commission calls for the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilisers to be allowed even on ecological focus areas (EFA) under Pillar 1 greening. This would contradict the purpose of EFA and could have a significant impact on the ability the new CAP to support small steps towards greater biodiversity management on European arable farmland. As a result IFOAM EU is calling on EU decision-makers to ensure that these harmful inputs are excludes from EFAs.

Most of the new CAP is expected to come into effect from the beginning of 2015. IFOAM EU will continue to monitor the process over the coming weeks and months. For more information please contact: stephen.meredith [at] ifoam-eu.org
GMOS

PIONEER 1507 GM MAIZE

The genetically modified maize “Pioneer 1507” should not be placed on the market for cultivation, because its insect-resistant pollen might harm non-target butterflies and moths, says a European Parliament resolution passed on 16 January. MEPs call on the EU Council of Ministers to reject its proposed authorisation, and urge the European Commission not to propose or renew authorisations of any GMO variety until risk assessment methods have been improved.

MEPs oppose the placing on the EU market of this genetically modified maize on the grounds that this would exceed the Commission’s implementing powers as laid down in EU rules on the deliberate release into the environment of GMOs. In particular, they note that the Commission proposal fails to specify any “conditions for protection of particular ecosystems/environments and/or geographical areas,” as required by the legislation.

The resolution was passed by 385 votes to 201 with 30 abstentions.

Source: European Parliament Press

FOOD & FARMING

INCREASE IN ORGANIC FARMING, BUT FURTHER LOSS OF FARMS IN EUROPE

The European Commission has published its annual rural development report. According to the report, organic farming in the European Union reached 9.6 million hectares in 2011, increasing the number of hectares by 5.5% (in EU-27). Spain, Italy, Germany, France and the United Kingdom are the main centres of organic land; together they hold 57.5% of the total organic area in Europe.

Another major outcome of the report is the ongoing loss of farms. The total number of farms decreased by 12 per cent between 2007 and 2010. The average farm size increased to 14.3 ha, but almost 70 percent of farms are still smaller than 5 ha. In the same years, full-time jobs in agriculture decreased by 16.5 percent.

VIEWS ON THE NEW CAP

Organic experts

Organic experts and representatives from the European Commission and Parliament discuss the new CAP and what it means for organic agriculture.

Organic farmers

How organic farmers view the CAP, how they can benefit from the CAP reform and their expectations (and concerns) regarding the new CAP. Filmed in Greece, Italy and Spain.

The “Mind the CAP” campaign is co-financed by the European Union, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development. The sole responsibility for the content expressed lies with the author. The European Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of this information.
2015 YEAR OF SOIL – GERMAN REGIONS WANT EU SOIL DIRECTIVE

The 68th United Nations General Assembly has designated 5 December as World Soil Day and declared 2015 as the International Year of Soils. Soil is an essential resource in the contribution of the organic agriculture, food security, sustainable development and climate change adaptation and therefore IFOAM EU calls for an ambitious European framework for the protection of soils.

On 19 December, the Bundesrat, a German legislative body that represents the sixteen federal states, has adopted a position on the efficiency of European legislation. In this position, the Bundesrat states that it considers an EU wide framework for the protection of soils and the conservation of important soil functions as necessary. This gives new hope for the future of the EU framework directive on the protection of soils, which has been in a deadlock situation in the Council for years due to Germany and other Members States standing against an EU soil framework. Now, the German government is expected to ask the European Commission to reopen the soil directive negotiations.

JOIN THE SUSTAININGAS WEBINARS AND WORKSHOPS!

If you are interested in learning more about organic biogas or the current trends and developments on sustainability criteria, technical and economic requirements and best practice, register now and don't miss the last SUSTAININGAS webinars and workshops.

The free training sessions are targeted at organic farmers, biogas consultants and associations, green energy companies, and interested consumers. Live webinars and workshops give an overview of produce sustainable biogas on organic farms, and the current market situation. Register here

JOIN THE SUSTAININGAS WEBINARS AND WORKSHOPS!

Language Dates

- Live Webinars
  - Danish 29 Jan 2014
  - English 21 Jan 2014
  - Spanish January (tbc)

- Workshops
  - Bulgarian 1 Feb 2014
  - Danish 13–14 Mar 2014
  - German 30 Jan 2014 (Schloss Puchberg, Wels, Austria)
  - Polish Feb 2014
  - Spanish 14 March 2014 Pontevedra

New publication from IFOAM EU, FiBL and CIHEAM-IAMB

- Latest growth trends
- Europe-wide production & sales statistics, including per country
- Farming and food policy overview
- Case studies on support mechanisms

Pick up your copy at BioFach in Hall 1, Stand 1-543

Or to order a copy contact stephen [@] meredith@ifoam-eu.org

www.ifoam-eu.org communication@ifoam-eu.org
facebook.com/IFOAMEU @IFOAMEU
1.3 EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION POLICY/TP ORGANICS

UPDATE ON THE EUROPEAN INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP FOR AGRICULTURE

**Horizon 2020: New opportunities for research and innovation in Europe**

In November 2013, the EU has set new policies and priorities for funding research and innovation called “Horizon 2020”. Horizon 2020 will provide a significant break with the “old programmes chapter” and to build a stronger link with the EU policy priorities. It should also stimulate new economic growth and increases jobs in Europe.

Since its establishment in 2008, TP Organics has been fighting for more support for organic food and farming research from European research policies - particularly in the EU Research Framework Programmes.

Thanks to the lobbying work done by TP Organics, Horizon 2020 now recognises organic farming as one of the approaches to achieve a sustainable, resilient, resource efficient and competitive agri-food sector that can cope with climate changes and provide safe and healthy food.

The organic farming sector must now seize these opportunities offered by Horizon 2020, and to facilitate this effort TP Organics provides a practical introduction to Horizon 2020 and advice on how to apply for project funding in a new document: the document is published on the TP Organics website.

**Horizon 2020 workshop: Connecting Research and Practice – Opportunities for Innovation in Agriculture and Rural Areas**

The organic sector offers solutions to many of the challenges described in the Work Programme, even though there are no calls specific to organic. This is the major conclusion from the workshop on the first Work Programme of Horizon 2020, organised on 14 January by the Commission and the European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture and attended by IFOAM EU. During the workshop, IFOAM EU President, Christopher Stopes, asked that small partners get a fair chance to be involved in projects.

The presentations of the workshop are available here. They include a useful overview of what multi-actor projects and thematic networks are, as well as helpful slides about the submission and evaluation procedure. The factsheets about Horizon 2020 and Innovation Support Services might be of interest to potential applicants. People who are looking for project partners are encouraged to register for the LinkedIn group opened by the EIP-AGRI Service Point.

**European Commission looking for Horizon 2020 evaluators**

Horizon 2020 project proposals will be evaluated by experts selected by the European Commission from a database. The Commission now calls for new experts to register in the database. In particular, professionals from the agricultural and forestry sectors are encouraged to register. The Commission has a special interest is evaluators with experience in multi-actor projects (involving farmers, advisors, businesses, NGOs etc.) that combine scientific and practical knowledge. Candidates are requested to file their application by the end of January 2014. IFOAM EU hopes that many specialists from the organic sector will register.

**EXPO MILANO 2015: CALL FOR BEST PRACTICES ON FOOD SECURITY**

Universal Expo Milano 2015 has launched a call for “Best Sustainable Development Practices on Food Security”. The collection of best practices is supported by the Feeding Knowledge Programme which is establishing an international scientific network to promote and transfer knowledge on food security, and identifying policies that really meet sustainable development criteria.

Only 15 submissions selected will be highly visible at Expo Milano 2015 (movie, photo stories) and will be included in the official Expo Milano 2015 legacy.

Best Practices can be submitted until 30 April. Results of the selection procedure will be published on 15 September.

Show the world how organic improves food security! More information.
1.4 BIOFACH 2014: INTO ORGANIC

IFOAM EU AT BIOFACH

IFOAM EU Board elections and General Assembly

The 7th IFOAM EU General Assembly will be held on Tuesday, 11 February 2014, 13.45 to 17.40 in the Room Munchen 2 (NCC Mitte) of the Exhibition Centre Nuremberg, Germany.

The most important event on the agenda is the election of a new IFOAM EU Board for the period 2014–2016.

At the last GA in 2013, the assembly voted for a new governance structure consisting of a board and a council.

- **The Board** – an executive body comprising a president, a treasurer and six vice presidents who are selected according to sector related and regional criteria
- **The Council** – a group of 30 delegates who transmit national interests and specificities to the European level

The elections will select the new board for this new structure.

Become a member now to be eligible to vote for the people who will lead IFOAM EU by filling in and sending the membership form by email to: laura.ullmann[at]ifoam-eu.org or by fax to +32 2 735 73 81!

SCIENCE DAY AT BIOFACH 2014

IFOAM’s Science Day will be held for the second time at BioFach on Friday, 14 February. The morning session will deal with European research policy, Horizon 2020 and the European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture. The joint dossier of IFOAM EU, TP Organics and ARC 2020 about the EIP-AGRI will be launched. Participants will also have the opportunity to contribute to the renewed vision of TP Organics. The afternoon session will be dedicated to global aspects of organic research and the research vision of the IFOAM Technology Innovation Platform (TIPI).

The Science day is organized by Technology Innovation Platform of IFOAM (TIPI), Technology Platform for Organic Food and Farming Research (TP Organics), the International Society of Organic Agriculture Research (ISOFAR), the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), the IFOAM EU Group and the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL).

Time: Friday, 14 February 2014, 9 am to 5 pm
Venue: Room Mailand, CNN Mitte, NürnbergMesse, Nürnberg, Germany
Registration

Consult the full programme
OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE:
IFOAM EU CONFERENCES

Take part in discussions and give input on key topics such as the EU organic regulation review, opportunities under the new CAP, the future of the EU organic controls system, the potential of the European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture to support organic and more. Express your opinion and learn more about organic food and farming in the European Union!

Visit us in Hall 1, Stand 1-543!

Wednesday, 12 February
15.00–16.00 Seminar in cooperation with AIAB: European Seed Legislation
Room Mailand

Thursday, 13 February
10.00–13.00 The future of controls in Organic Farming and Production: What is going to change?
Room Shanghai
11.00–11.45 EU import regulation: First experience
Room Kopenhagen
15.00–16.30 Regulation Review: The second step
Room Istanbul

Friday, 14 February
10.00–10.45 Mind the CAP: Policy opportunities & organic market development in Europe
Room Riga
12.00–12.45 The next challenges for organic food processing
Room Istanbul
15.00–16.30 Sustainable Biogas Production on organic farms
Room Kopenhagen

Room Mailand (NCC Mitte)

Science Day (see more below)
9.00–9.30 Brief presentation of TP Organics and of TIPI and their importance for European and global organic food and farming research
9.30–10.30 TP Organics: What does the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) for Agriculture offer to the organic sector?
9.45–12.45 TP Organics workshop: Adapting the vision of TP Organics to the new challenges and policy context

Saturday, 15 February
10.00–11.00 STOAS Call for Ideas 2014: Assessing sustainability in organic farming
Room Nizza
2 EVENTS

2.1 PREVIEW OF EVENTS

IFOAM EU DIRECTOR MEETS DUTCH ORGANIC STAKEHOLDERS AT BIOVAK

On 23 January, IFOAM EU Director Marco Schlüter was present at the Mind the CAP campaign partner BIONEXT stand at BioVak, discussed the EU Organic Regulations review and other key topics with the visitors, accompanied by the leader of the GroenLinks list for European Member of Parliament elections, Bas Eickhout.

BioVak is an organic and sustainable agriculture B2B fair in Zwolle, The Netherland, and a partner of the “Mind the CAP” campaign co-financed by the European Union, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development and implemented by IFOAM EU and partners from 10 EU Member States. The entire organic sustainable chain visits BioVak on a yearly basis. BioVak attracts visitors from numerous countries, both European and non-European. Many different workshops and seminars are being organized with simultaneous translations in English.

2.2 REVIEW OF EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL GREEN WEEK: 30,000 DEMONSTRATED AGAINST GMO AND INDUSTRIALISED FOOD

Around 30,000 people gathered in Berlin on Saturday, 18 January, to clearly say: “We Are Fed Up!” The protest was directed against industrialised food systems and the threat of increasing GMO in the future and it took place during the International Green Week.

During his stay in Berlin, IFOAM EU Director Marco Schlüter met representatives from the European Commission and German ministries and discussed the Organic Regulations review.

Chair of the IFOAM EU’s Farmers Interest Group, Jan Plagge, participated in a meeting of ARC2020 members with the Commissioner for agriculture and rural development, Dacian Cioloș, and also exchanged opinions regarding the new regulation.

CHALLENGES FOR ORGANIC IN GERMANY AND EUROPE

IFOAM EU director Marco Schlüter took part in a panel discussion on 19 January during the International Green Week in Berlin about the current situation of organic farming in Europe and upcoming challenges together with Martin Häusling (MEP, spokesperson for agriculture of the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance) and Hans Hohenester (member of the Naturland board of directors). Main topics of discussion were the reasons for a stagnating growth of the organic market in Germany, the geographical imbalance between processing of organic food and the availability of raw materials within Europe. Martin Häusling elaborated on the process of the current CAP reform and the TTIP (trade and investment agreement under negotiation between the EU and the US).
3 MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC – SUPPORT IFOAM EU

TRADIN – NEW SPONSOR FOR 2014

Tradin Organic Agriculture supplies the international food industry with globally sourced, organic raw ingredients. From farm to the market, it is Tradin Organic’s mission to work with the utmost respect for people and planet.

Tradin Organic was founded in the 1980s as a pioneer for organic food ingredients in the emerging European market. Since the early days, Tradin Organic has been involved in the development of social farming and sourcing projects in Latin America, Asia and Europe. With this invaluable know-how, the company was able to build an extensive worldwide network of suppliers, processors and partners. In recent years, investments have been made to optimize risk management through vertical integration of the supply chain. Now, company-owned processing facilities for key items such as cocoa, sesame and sunflower ensure organic integrity and the highest product quality.

Their comment on the new step in the relationship with IFOAM EU: “One of our important partners has been the European IFOAM group. We are hence proud to support IFOAM EU in 2014 with our sponsorship, promoting the organic industry with one single voice in Brussels.”

IFOAM EU KEY SPONSORS 2014

Ecovalia & Wessanen

Ecovalia and Wessanen show their support for the work of IFOAM EU by a financial cooperation with IFOAM EU throughout 2014. Their money will be used to co-finance IFOAM EU events, projects and publications and is a highly valued contribution to our work.

A DECADE OF ORGANIC ADVOCACY IN BRUSSELS

“This anniversary publication gives a voice to our people; each contribution gives a personal perspective on how IFOAM EU has played a part in developing and delivering a common vision for organic, influencing public and business policy as well as personal practice. They speak of how our ethos is expressed in our daily lives, how the ethics of our standards and codes of conduct brings food from our farmers and growers to our tables.”

Christopher Stopes
IFOAM EU President
### 4 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 January–23 February</td>
<td>Biomercato</td>
<td>Città dell’Altra Economia, Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>22–23 January</td>
<td>BioVak</td>
<td>Zwolle, The Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 January</td>
<td>Organic farming in the CAP, guaranty of sustainability</td>
<td>Murcia, Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–15 February</td>
<td>BioFach 2014</td>
<td>Nuremberg, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1–2 June</td>
<td>Organic Marketing Forum</td>
<td>Warsaw, Poland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–21 July</td>
<td>The IFOAM Organic Leadership Course (OLC) Europe 2014</td>
<td>The Netherlands</td>
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**THE IFOAM ORGANIC LEADERSHIP COURSE (OLC) EUROPE 2014**

First residential session: 12–21 July 2014 in the Netherlands

Do not miss this unique opportunity to develop your skills, knowledge and leadership attitude. The IFOAM OLC brings international expertise and vision to a course that will help you attain your personal development goals. Applications are currently being accepted. The deadline is 15 April, so follow the instructions on the OLC Europe page and apply.

Find out more about the leadership course.