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Dear members,

The cohesiveness of the organic sector has often been a key to success of IFOAM EU’s advocacy work. Many of our achievements have been accomplished exactly because we act together. As the umbrella organisation for organic food and farming in Europe we look forward to continuing to bring together organic stakeholders as a cohesive force. Many of the key issues facing the organic sector will be discussed at the 8th European Organic Congress on 10–12 September in Bari, Italy including:

- the implementation of Rural Development Programmes under the new CAP;
- the European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture;
- and the Commission’s proposal for a new Organic Regulation.

The event is organised under the patronage of the European Parliament and EXPO 2015. More than 200 people are expected to take part, including policy makers, representatives from national and regional bodies, and members of the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR).

The new organic regulation remains a major topic. The Congress will be an opportunity to continue the discussion and to give input directly to the Italian EU Presidency. The AGRI Council along with the European Parliament now play a crucial role in deciding how a new legal framework could shape the future of organic food and farming in the EU.

IFOAM EU highly appreciates that the Italian EU Presidency has recognised the importance of the 8th European Organic Congress by supporting this event as one of organisers. It is an opportunity for the sector to deliver its messages to key policy and decision-makers face to face, and to offer solutions for how the new Regulation can help make Europe more organic and drive innovation in sustainable food production.

Thanks to the other organiser, CIHEAM-IAMB (Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari) who bring together a network of Mediterranean experts on organic and agro-ecological approaches, we are hosting the Congress at their modern education and research facilities in Bari.

As the Chair of the IFOAM EU Farmer Interest Group, I would like to especially thank the Italian Ministry of Agriculture for helping to organise this event and look forward to engaging in talks about the opportunities that Rural Development Programmes under the new CAP and the new European Innovation Partnership can deliver. Together we hope to articulate our ideas about how to use these new instruments to stimulate greater delivery of public goods and create green jobs.

I would like to invite you all to register for the 8th European Organic Congress before leaving for summer holidays and make your plans now for this key event in the organic calendar.

I look forward to seeing you in Bari!

Sincerely,

Jan Plagge
IFOAM EU Board Member and Chair of the IFOAM EU Farmer Interest Group
1 NEWS FROM IFOAM EU WORKING FIELDS

1.1 REGULATION

NEW IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS ON ORGANIC IMPORTS PUBLISHED

New implementing regulations amending Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 have been published. This includes:

- **Regulation (EU) No 644/2014** which updates the lists of ‘equivalent’ countries (Annex III) and of ‘equivalent’ control bodies (Annex IV)
- **Regulation (EU) No 442/2014** which intends to facilitate the transition to a new import system put forward in proposal for a new Organic Regulation. It sets a deadline of 1 July 2014 for applications from Third Countries who wish to be recognised as ‘equivalent’ to the EU regulation.

If no changes occur in the European Commission proposal during the co-decision process, both import systems based on ‘equivalent’ control bodies and on ‘equivalent’ countries will be phased out. Future certification in Third Countries would be carried out exclusively through ‘compliant’ control bodies or through bilateral trade agreements.

IFOAM EU agrees with the Commission’s intention to improve the current import system but, questions the effectiveness of the proposed system. Equivalence has allowed Third Country producers to meet organic standards appropriate to the conditions of their region while still meeting the objectives of the EU Organic Regulation. This approach has enabled European manufacturers, retailers and consumers to source a variety of affordable and trustworthy organic products, particularly tropical products. It has also stimulated organic market development in EU countries and given opportunities for small producers in developing countries to participate in organic value chains which can help to improve their livelihoods.

Further information on how to improve the integrity of imported products can be found in IFOAM EU recommendations put forward in 2012.

EU ORGANIC REGULATIONS OVERVIEW AVAILABLE ON THE IFOAM EU WEBSITE

An overview of all EU Organic Regulations is available on the IFOAM EU website. This includes all Regulations published since 2007 as well as the latest consolidated versions of Regulations (EC) No 834/2007, (EC) No 889/2008 and (EC) No 1235/2008.
NEW FOOD AND VETERINARY OFFICE REPORTS ON ORGANIC CONTROL SYSTEMS

An updated list of reports on audits carried out by the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) of the European Commission on the organic control systems of Member States and Equivalent Third Countries has been published:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Poland, Portugal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Germany, United Kingdom, Tunisia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>France, Spain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Audits were also being carried out in France and Spain in 2013, but reports are not yet available. Currently organic control systems in Czech Republic, Finland, the Netherlands and Slovakia are being audited as well as systems in Argentina, Australia and Canada with regard to the EU market.

NEW EXPERT GROUP FOR TECHNICAL ADVICE ON ORGANIC PRODUCTION REPORTS AND MANDATES

Two new reports from the Expert Group for Technical Advice on Organic Production (EGTOP) have been published. These include:

- A second report on Plant Protection Products which analyses the use of a number of products and substances including potassium phosphonates, kieselgur, carbon dioxide, piperonyl butoxide and potassium bicarbonate. The EGTOP also expresses its opinion on some aspects regarding the alignment of the Organic Regulation with horizontal legislation on marketing of plant protection products under Regulation (EU) No 1107/2009. The first report on Plant Protection Products was published in 2011.
- A second report on food which analyses in detail different flavourings and their use in organic processing. The first report on food was published in 2012.

The EGTOP have now received three new “mandates” from the European Commission including:

- A third mandate on food which will give an opinion on several new substances and techniques
- A second mandate on feed with regard to processing
- Part B of the mandate on organic aquaculture

IFOAM EU PROCESSING EXPERTS DISCUSS THE ORGANIC REGULATION REVIEW

Experts from the IFOAM EU Processor Interest Group met on 2 June to analyse food aspects of the European Commission’s proposal for a new Organic Regulation. Issues discussed included food processing, labelling, import and equivalency agreements and the control system. Many members of the group were the initiators of IFOAM EU positions on environmental performance, labelling, reducing items in Annex IX under Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 and the recommendations towards 100% organic ingredients. These experts were also involved in the development of IFOAM EU Guidelines which seek to prevent pesticide residue contamination in the international trade of organic products.
IFOAM EU CALLS ON THE COMMISSION TO USE RDPS TO MAXIMISE THE IMPACT OF THE EU ORGANIC ACTION PLAN

IFOAM EU has called on the European Commission to ensure that all CAP reform recommendations and actions set out in the new EU Organic Action Plan are part of EU rural development programmes (RDPs). In letters to key Commission officials involved in the approval of new RDPs, IFOAM EU outlined the importance of ensuring that full use is made of all EU policies and instruments to implement the actions, recommendations and overall spirit of the new Action Plan by:

- Mainstreaming organic food and farming development in all Partnership agreements under the EU Common Strategic Framework to support the sector in reaching the EU’s 2020 targets for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth particularly in the areas of innovation and resource efficiency
- Ensuring that the organic is well supported in new RDPs under relevant measures such as organic farming and agri-environment-climate schemes, farm advisory services and innovation as well as measures related to investment support and supply chain development

These demands were also outlined by IFOAM EU at the Commission’s Rural Development Advisory Group meeting on 14 May attended by Dorota Metera and Stephen Meredith.

Publication of CAP implementing rules expected before summer recess

It is expected that all CAP implementing rules – outlining further details on certain articles set out in the basic legal texts - will be published by the Commission by June/July 2014. This includes the delegated acts on direct payments and rural development which were supported by the Parliament and the AGRI Council and implementing acts set to be approved by Member States. In addition the Commission will also adopt a further delegated act related to the implementation of ecological focus areas to amend the delegated act on direct payments outlined. The move follows a declaration issued by the Commission in April to satisfy the demands of MEPs in the AGRI committee for greater flexibility in greening implementation (see IFOAM EU Newsletter No 73 April 2014).

Commission to approve new Rural Development Programmes

The European Commission is currently receiving CAP implementation proposals from Member States and regions. Submissions include draft RDPs as well as choices for direct payments and greening. It is foreseen that all draft RDPs will be submitted by 22 July. However delays in some Member States are expected in particular those with regional RDPs. Member State plans for direct payments and greening should be submitted by 01 August. Before RDPs can be approved, the Commission and Member States must commit to a Partnership Agreement (PA) under the Common Strategic Framework. These agreements set out priorities for key EU structural funds to 2020 from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). PAs have already been agreed for Denmark, Germany, Greece and Poland. The PA and RDP approval processes are expected to continue until Autumn/Winter 2014.

IFOAM EU will continue to monitor the process over the coming weeks and months. For updates please follow the thinking CAP blog and for more information contact Stephen Meredith: stephen.meredith[at]ifoam-eu.org
Details of the funding allocations for participating Member States in this year’s School Fruit Scheme (SFS) were approved by the European Commission on 05 June 2014. The outcomes of the CAP reform see available funds increasing from €90 million to €150 million per year, with the new allocations covering the period August 2014 to July 2015. All Member States are participating in this Scheme, with the exception of the UK, Sweden and Finland. The scheme grants funding for:

- the supply of fruit and vegetable products to education establishments – targeted at children 6–10 years old
- Costs related to logistics and distribution, equipment, publicity, monitoring and evaluation
- Accompanying measures such as educational information and activities related to agricultural production, healthy eating habits, local food chains, and combating food waste.

More needs to be done to make best use of CAP instruments such as cross-compliance and rural development programmes to implement the Water Framework Directive according to a European Court of Auditors report – Integration of EU water policy objectives with the CAP: a partial success. Although the report acknowledged improvements in water quality and quantity, these improvements do not suffice to reach the overall goals of the policy objectives set out in the Directive. There are significant delays in implementation in many Member States. The report concluded that stronger efforts needed to be taken by Member States to address the problems that arise from the shortcomings of the two CAP instruments. An IFOAM EU factsheet on organic approaches to rural development shows how organic farming protects and enhances water bodies and highlights that using new rural development measures in combination with organic farming support can offer targeted solutions for sustainable water stewardship.

Find the interactive map of Europe on IFOAM EU website and get a snapshot of how organic farming and the market for organic food is progressing in your country or other European regions.
CLIMATE CHANGE

CLIMATE FRIENDLY FARMS PREPARING FOR DEPARTURE

The SOLMACC* project is now in full swing. Twelve farms will participate in a 5-year demonstration project to implement climate friendly practices. These farms have now been found and are currently being visited by a team of researchers and advisors who will determine the precise farming techniques to be applied from autumn 2014 in cooperation with the farmers involved. In a recent meeting of the SOLMACC project steering committee, held in Freising, Germany between 11 and 12 June, project partners shared their experiences of first farm visits. The feedback from the meeting demonstrated that all farmers are highly committed to use their farms for the demonstration of climate friendly practices. The SOLMACC website provides an overview of this LIFE funded project.

Subscribe to SOLMACC newsletter

* SOLMACC: Strategies for organic and low-input farming systems to mitigate and adapt to climate change

SOLMACC team gathering in Freising, Germany (from the left hand side): Stephanie Fischinger (Bioland Beratung), Klaus-Peter Wilbois (FiBL), Dalila D’Oppido (AIAB), Markus Moser (Bioland Beratung), Sabine Koch (Bioland Beratung), Maria Dirke (Ekologiska Lantbrukarna), Andreas Gattinger (FiBL), Markus Wiggert (Bioland Beratung), Monica Sousa (IFOAM EU), Lena Wietheger (IFOAM EU), Asta Guljeva (Astrale), Josef Braun (Bioland farmer – local host)
EUROPEAN COMMISSION FORMALLY ABANDON THE EU SOIL DIRECTIVE

The introduction of an EU Soil Directive was formally abandoned by the European Commission on 21 May as a result of continuous pressure from some Member States including Germany, France, Austria, the Netherlands, Malta and the UK who have been opposing the introduction of such a Directive for some years. The EU, nevertheless, remains confronted by the ongoing challenges of soil degradation and IFOAM EU will continue to call for a binding legal framework to protect soil. For further information see IFOAM EU’s position on a future EU Soil Directive.

AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS ENDORSE PLANS FOR PLANT PROTECTION MINOR USE FUND

Agricultural Ministers endorsed Commission proposals to establish a 350,000 euro annual fund for the coordination of the minor uses of pesticides applications. Minor uses fall under the implementation of Regulation 1107/2009 (marketing of plant protection products) at the AGRI Council Meeting on 19 May. Minor uses refers to the use of plant protection products when crops are considered to be of low economic importance at national level, or the pest of limited importance to a major crop. Many substances traditionally used in organic agriculture may benefit from the Minor Use Fund.

NEW PUBLICATION ON ORGANIC FARMING

The latest issue of the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) publication ‘EU Rural Review’ is dedicated to organic farming issues including rural development programmes, innovation and the new Organic Action Plan among others. The ENRD is an initiative of DG Agriculture supported under the CAP which seeks to develop a network of rural development stakeholders throughout the EU.

THE LATEST SUSTAINGAS NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ONLINE

Information on recently launched guidelines and a handbook for sustainable biogas production on organic farms can be found in the latest edition of the SUSTAINGAS project newsletter. The newsletter also includes news about a policy conference at the European Parliament organised by IFOAM EU in April and biogas training modules completed in February. More details can be found on the SUSTAINGAS website including an upcoming online training expected to be launched this coming autumn.
TP ORGANICS STAKEHOLDER FORUM

Revising the Strategic Research Agenda for Organic Food and Farming

Representation of Tuscany Region, Brussels: 1 July – 13.00 to 17.30

This year the TP Organics (TPO) Stakeholder Forum is dedicated to the revision of TPO’s Strategic Research Agenda. The new version will set out TPO’s research and innovation goals for organic until 2020. A number of experts have been working on drafts of the Strategic Research Agenda since January 2014 and the event will be the first opportunity for TPO members and civil society stakeholders to provide feedback on these drafts. Your contribution will help to make the Strategic Research Agenda a broadly supported document that can effectively influence EU research policy.

In addition the Stakeholder Forum will feature the launch of TPO’s Action Plan for Innovation and Learning. This Action Plan will demonstrate the innovation potential of organic farming and agroecology and make policy recommendations for promoting innovation and learning in agriculture.

If you are not able to participate in the Stakeholder Forum, don’t worry! TPO will hold an online consultation to get further input from stakeholders. The consultation will give everybody the possibility to prioritise the topics already proposed as well as to put forward new topics.

A NEW PUBLICATION BY TP ORGANICS: ACTION PLAN FOR INNOVATION AND LEARNING

TP Organics, in cooperation with IFOAM EU and ARC 2020 have developed an Action Plan for Innovation and Learning. It sets out a blueprint for learning and innovation in the organic and agro-ecological food & farming sector and will be launched at the Stakeholder Forum of TP Organics and available online from 1 July.

The Action Plan analyses what opportunities current EU policy instruments offer from EIP-AGRI Operational Groups (under Rural Development programmes) and multi-actor projects or thematic networks (under Horizon 2020) to strategic partnerships (under Erasmus+). These instruments are a welcome shift away from the linear model of innovation to a more system based approach of interactive innovation. Their success will depend on the political will and capacities available to implement the new thinking on innovation. By learning from the experiences of agroecology and organic farming, policy makers and public servants can make these instruments a success. Finally, the Action Plan calls upon organic researchers, farmers and businesses to organise themselves in order to take part in the various funding schemes. The numerous examples of innovation given in the publication can serve as inspiration for stakeholders.

Available in print and online as of 1 July.

For more information write to: Bram.Moeskops[at]tporganics.eu
1.4 EUROPEAN INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP FOR AGRICULTURE

COMMISSION PUBLISHES REPORTS FROM EIP-AGRI FOCUS GROUPS ON ORGANIC FARMING AND ON PROTEIN CROPS

Reports of the EIP-AGRI Focus Groups on Organic Farming and on Protein Crops have been published. The Focus Group on Organic Farming provides solutions for reducing the “yield gap” (i.e. the gap between the best and least performing organic farms and the gap between conventional and organic farming for particular crops). Five main causes for yield gaps were identified. These include:

- poor soil fertility management,
- inadequate nutrient supply,
- insufficient weed management,
- insufficiently managed pest and disease pressures,
- and variety of choice.

The Focus Group collected practical solutions already in place and made proposals for topics for research projects and EIP-AGRI Operational Groups. It also made recommendations of the methods used to set-up Operational Groups. It concluded that there is still no standard solution for this. On the contrary, the activities of the Operational Groups should always be adapted to the agronomic, social and environmental context. Finally, the Focus Group recommended establishing an EU-wide network of organic knowledge centre that collects and facilitates the use of scientific and practical information that is already available, but not accessible in one location.

While the Focus Group on Organic Farming proposed useful recommendations, the report of the Focus Group on Protein Crops was a missed opportunity to seriously address the protein deficit in the EU. The report is very much focused on soya value chains. Breeding is put forward as a priority to boost protein supply, while the role of crop rotations to alternate the production of cereals and protein crops is largely ignored.

FOUR NEW EIP-AGRI FOCUS GROUPS STARTED, THREE MORE TO BE LAUNCHED IN JULY

In the beginning of June four new EIP Focus Groups started their activities covering:

- High-Nature Value (HNV) Farming: how to make HNV farming more profitable without losing the HNV characteristics?
- Mainstreaming precision farming
- Permanent grassland: how to manage permanent grassland in a way that combines profitability, carbon sequestration and biodiversity?
- Fertiliser efficiency – focus on horticulture in open field

In early July, a new call for three other EIP Focus Groups will be launched:

- Optimising crop production profitability through ecological focus areas
- Alternative/innovative supply chains
- Integrated Pest Management practices for soil disease suppression

The call is targeted at all farmers, advisors, researchers and other experts who are willing to share knowledge and want to propose practical innovative solutions and identify innovation opportunities.
HIGH-LEVEL STEERING BOARD NEEDS TO MAKE MORE EFFORTS TO PROMOTE GOOD EIP-AGRI IMPLEMENTATION

On 30 June the High-Level Steering Board will meet again to take stock of the development of the European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture. This Board which is composed of a wide range of stakeholders including IFOAM EU aims to give further advice on EIP implementation.

IFOAM EU regrets that the High-Level Steering Board has not been more involved in the process since it adopted the Strategic Implementation Plan of the EIP-AGRI last summer. Very little information has been provided on how the EIP-AGRI is being implemented. This makes it difficult for the High-Level Steering Board to assess progress.

The Strategic Implementation Plan mentions that efforts for improving productivity must go hand in hand with sustainable consumption. It calls for innovative solutions for the delivery of public goods, the sustainable use of genetic resources and improvement of soil fertility. However, the European Commission doesn’t seem to give a high priority to the Strategic Implementation Plan. More efforts should be done to promote it. The Commission’s desk officers evaluating the Rural Development programmes of the Member States should be more aware of the recommendations of the Plan. In addition the Directorate-Generals for Research & Innovation and for Agriculture & Rural Development should take it into account when drafting the next work programmes of Horizon 2020.

EXPRESS 2015 MILAN FEEDING KNOWLEDGE AWARD: SUBMIT YOUR BEST ORGANIC PRACTICE EXAMPLE

Expo Milan 2015 has launched a call to recognise and promote “Best Sustainable Development Practices (BSDP) on Food Security”. The call is supported by the Feeding Knowledge Program which aims to establish an international scientific network for research and innovation to promote and transfer knowledge on food security.

All the BSDPs that take part in the competition will be published and promoted through the Feeding Knowledge web platform with 15 selected to be promoted and highly visible at Expo Milan 2015 through:
• an exhibition in Pavilion 0;
• dedicated workshops on best practice;
• the dissemination of promotional materials of the best practice
• And inclusion in the Repository on Feeding Knowledge web platform.

In addition, IFOAM EU in cooperation with TP Organics will award two the entrants support to participate in Expo Milano 2015 – including travel expenses, accommodation for three days as well as assisting with administrative and logistical aspects (such as visa issues, etc.)

The closing date for BSDP is 15 September 2014, so what are you waiting for? Submit your best practice today.

For further information, please contact Yulia Barabanova: yulia.barabanova(at)ifoam-eu.org
ORGANICDATANETWORK PRESENTS RESULTS FOR BETTER ORGANIC DATA


The focus of the 2-day working session was on a Code of Good Practice for the collection of Organic Market Data (OrMaCode). This will be one of the main outcomes of the EU-funded project, together with a manual on data collection.

A webinar is currently being organised to inform organic market data collectors about how a database and the necessary tools for data processing can be constructed. This webinar will be presented and available online for all interested parties from July onwards. All 24 participants were very pleased with the intensive discussions and deliberations about handling and processing organic data. The final project meeting is already scheduled for mid-October in Istanbul.

In the meantime the work of OrganicDataNetwork will be presented at a number of different events:

- 10–11 July 2014: Stakeholder workshop in Bari/Italy (the key challenges of collecting organic market data and solutions will be discussed)
- From July 2014: A webinar presentation to stakeholders in the organic sector
- 13–15 October 2014: Presentation of the OrMaCode at the Organic World Congress of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), Istanbul

The project, which began in January 2012, aims to improve the transparency of the European organic food market by improving market intelligence about the sector. This will help to meet the needs of policy makers and actors who require reliable and comprehensive market data from the organic sector. The project is funded under the 7th Framework Programme of the European Union and runs from 2012 to 2014.

For further information visit the project website: Or contact the Project Coordinator Prof. Dr. Raffaele Zanoli, Università Politecnica delle Marche at: zanoli[at]agrecon.univpm.it

www.organicdatanetwork.net

The OrganicDataNetwork project has received funding from the European Union’s Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement No. 289376. The contents of this article are the sole responsibility of the publishers, and they do not represent the views of the European Commission or its services. The Commission is not liable for any use that may be made of the information.
Implementing Innovative Ecological Solutions for Farmers and Rural Communities

10–12 SEPTEMBER 2014, BARI, ITALY

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- Examples of organic and agro-ecological innovation

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES
- Impact on farmers and rural communities
- Public goods and green job creation

ORGANIC REGULATION REVIEW
- Expected regulatory changes
- Influencing the outcome

This conference is co-financed by the European Community, Directorate-General for the Environment. The sole responsibility for this communication lies with the IFOAM EU Group. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.
2 EVENTS

2.1 PREVIEW OF EVENTS

8TH EUROPEAN ORGANIC CONGRESS
Bari, Italy, 11–12 September 2014

Plan your trip before summer holidays and register for the 8th European Organic Congress (10–12 September in Bari, Italy)!

Join the European organic sector stakeholders to meet the policymakers and decision makers from the Italian Presidency of the EU Council, the European Commission, and the Parliament to discuss the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead for EU organic food and farming.

The Congress will focus on three important topics:
- Rural Development Programmes (under the new CAP in 2015);
- the European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture;
- and the Organic Regulation review.

Register here and join us in Bari!
Read the programme

3RD ORGANIC PROCESSING CONFERENCE
17–18 November, Paris, France

IFOAM EU Group is organising the 3rd Conference on Organic Food Processing in co-operation with Synabio which will take place on 17–18 November 2014 in Paris, France. The venue is MAS (18 rue des Terres au curé, 75013 Paris).

This year’s conference aims to share practical experiences on the three following topics:
- Sustainability (Environmental performances – Food waste management)
- Integrity (Control & import)
- Quality (Additives and Flavours – Careful processing – Labelling)

All these subjects will be treated in the light of the Proposal for a new EU organic regulation, currently in a co-decision process between the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. Experiences and innovative practices from companies and organisations will be illustrated.

This conference will be a forum for experts, practitioners and producers, certifiers, scientist, organic businesses, other stakeholders and representatives of national and EU institutions. In particular, It will be a great chance to network with experts and other stakeholders from all over Europe and a build-up on the success of the 2nd IFOAM EU Processing conference held in November 2012 (Frankfurt, Germany).

For more information, please visit the 3rd IFOAM EU Processing conference webpage, which will be regularly updated.

The event is supported by:

This conference is co-financed by the European Community, Directorate-General for the Environment. The sole responsibility for this communication lies with the IFOAM EU Group. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.
3 MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC – SUPPORT IFOAM EU

IFOAM EU KEY SPONSORS 2014

The contributions of sponsors allow IFOAM EU to focus on its most important work – representing organic stakeholders. This funding is a means 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

JOIN IFOAM EU IN CREATING A VISION FOR ORGANIC TO 2030!

IFOAM EU is currently developing a vision for the organic food and farming sector to 2030. This is being done by using the input of all organic stakeholders in Europe. A broader stakeholder consultation will shortly be launched following our kick-off workshop on the Vision held in November 2013. Each stakeholder’s experience and opinion counts – so we strongly encourage you to take part. All ideas are welcome and therefore we invite to contact us about joining one of our Vision workshops scheduled to take place before the end of the 2014. If you are interested, please write to Yulia Barabanova yulia.barabanova[at]ifoam-eu.org

MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC

10 YEARS OF ADVOCACY FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND FARMING

IFOAM 10 EU GROUP

Global Organic Ingredients
Suolo e Salute has over 40 years of experience in the organic sector

It was born from the Suolo e Salute Association (Associazione Suolo e Salute), established in Italy in 1969 to promote an agriculture respectful of the human being and his environment.

Today Suolo e Salute is one of the main control bodies for organic farming: as for Italy, it controls almost 13,000 production and processing companies in Italy (approximately equivalent to 25% of the total) and over 370,000 hectares (30%). Suolo e Salute is authorized by the Italian Ministry of Agriculture for control and certification activities in organic farming - EC Reg. 834/07.

It is able to certify organic products to be exported towards the most important markets in the world. Suolo e Salute is accredited by the Ministry of Agriculture of Japan for the JAS label and by the Canadian Food and operates under equivalence for the certification of Organic NOP / USDA for the U.S. market. Inspection Agency for the COR label. Suolo e Salute is allowed to operate in compliance with standards Bio Suisse (Switzerland), AB France (France) and KRAV (Sweden).

In collaboration with accredited partners, Suolo e Salute can certify organic products destined for Brazil (according to the new organic law) and for China. Beyond the organic, Suolo e Salute offers several other certification services in the food and environmental sector. It works through two principal offices, Fano (PU) and Bologna, and 13 regional offices. It works outside of Italy in many countries and has its own offices and local employees in Dominican Republic and Egypt.
IFOAM Iran was officially launched on 11 May at the 2nd International Conference on Trade and Market Development of Organic Products. At the conference in Tehran, speakers from all over the world joined together with the Iran organic movement for the launch. IFOAM president Andre Leu and IFOAM EU Director Marco Schlüter were among the speakers, who presented their experience of running an international organisation with the board of the Iran Organic Association. Prof. Reza Ardakani has been appointed manager of IFOAM Iran.

The set up of IFOAM Iran came after intensive debates, and is part of IFOAM Global’s regionalisation strategy. IFOAM Iran may be a starting point to develop organic capacities among other countries in Persian area.

ORGANIC WINES HAVE SOUL AND FLAVOUR

Spain is the leading producer of organic wine, ahead of traditional wine production countries like Italy and France.

In Spain, wine is a leading value-added product for the organic wine sector and the agriculture sector as a whole. For quite some time, conventional wine production has been taking a downward trend due to the requirements of new EU legislation that have forced many conventional producers to remove their vines. In contrast the organic wine market is steadily increasing both in terms of the number of hectares and value chain development.

In the last two decades the number of companies in this sector has increased from 50 in 1991, to 568 in 2012. The numbers are consistent with the latest data published in 2012 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Spanish Food and Environment which shows an increase of more than 11% in domestic organic wine production.

Spain – world’s leader

Growth trends in the sector hinge on a further increase in wine production and the number of wineries. Furthermore the future of organic wine in Spain and the EU will be determined largely by the upcoming Organic Regulation Review. Whilst there are no specific changes that will directly affect organic wine production general changes such as the prohibition of mixed farms (conventional / organic) production will cause a reduction of vineyard surfaces and it is expected that 45% of certified organic production will be affected.

Spain is the largest producer of organic wine in the world, ahead of countries like Italy and France according to the Swiss Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL).

For instance in 2013, 176,442 hectares of organic vineyards were certified by the Andalucia Committee for Organic Farming (CAAE) in the regions of Andalucia and Castilla-La Mancha along with 110 wineries and bottling companies. This represented almost 75% of organic wine production in 2013, in the Communities of Andalucia and Castilla-La Mancha.

Sector characterization and “EcoRacimo” wine award

In economic terms, wine production is a key area for the Spanish food sector, especially in terms of food exports. Similarly to conventional wine, organic wine production is a leading player in the EU.

In 2014 Ecovalia - an organic food and farming association based in Andalucia together with the regional body – Diputacion Provincial de Cordoba, the City of Montilla (Cordoba, Spain) and the EPEA Association organised an international wine award – “EcoRacimo” that has been running for over 15 years. This award aims to contribute to the development of the sector and promote the consumption of organic wine.

The Spanish organic wine sector has a huge variety of high quality organic wines on the market and the 81 different organic wines that participated in this year’s competition are proof of this fact. Many of these wines are recognised for their distinctive geographical characteristics.

Organic wine production is also a driving force for rural development as it can help to increase the economic development of rural areas as well as create new business opportunities particularly in the tourist sector and agriculture related sectors.

All these characteristics reflect the added value of the organic wine for EU consumers. These are wines that have not only flavour, but also soul!
Yulia Barabanova
Research Assistant
Yulia joined IFOAM EU in June and will be working on formulating a Vision for the organic food and farming sector to 2030 and the operational tasks of the TP Organics’ secretariat. Previously she worked as a researcher at the Center for Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Policy in Hungary on various sustainability-related projects at EU level. As part of her doctoral research she developed a keen interest in organic farming through her interactions with environmental activists campaigning on climate change. Having successfully defended her PhD in environmental sciences and policy, she decided to pursue her interest in organic farming in a professional capacity. She believes that joining IFOAM EU is an excellent opportunity for her to gain an in-depth understanding of the sector while also contributing to the implementation of its mission using her skills and experience from other sectors.

Alejandro Gil
GMO-free Project Coordinator
Alejandro joined the IFOAM policy team in June. He will work as a Project Coordinator of IFOAM EU’s new GMO-free project which aims to keep GMOs out of our supply chains and strengthen the legal context for protecting genetically modified free production. Alejandro has worked for different organisations; mainly as a project coordinator and network developer primarily in Spain. During these years he has had opportunity to work together with several networks which aim to keep regions free from GMOs as well as working in coalitions and projects campaigning on different environmental issues. Having a passion for the environment and people he is very pleased to be part of the IFOAM EU team and is committed to continue the fight against GMOs.

Joanna Wierzbicka
Fundraising Coordinator
Joanna joined IFOAM EU in May, as the new Fundraising Coordinator. She has always been interested in organic agriculture since my family owns a biodynamic farm in Eastern Poland. She believes IFOAM EU is an ideal place to acquire a broader picture of organic farming and see how it is regulated at EU level. Before joining IFOAM EU, she worked on human rights and sustainable development projects in Afghanistan. She was also linked with organic through the fashion industry, where she managed markets for organic cotton clothes.
Marie-Chiara Tort
Former European Volunteer – Research Unit
Having worked for one year as European Volunteer in the Research Unit, Marie-Chiara left IFOAM EU last April. We would like to thank her for the work she has done for our Action Plan for Innovation and Learning, for analysing the EU policy for Agricultural Research for Development, preparing the TP Organics newsletters, the organisation of events and all other operational support. We wish her all the best in her future career.

Laura Maeso
Former European Volunteer – Policy Unit
In April the policy team bid farewell and good luck to Laura after her 12 months volunteering at IFOAM EU. Laura’s background in rural development and environmental issues as well as a strong interest in sustainable agriculture at EU and international level brought a welcome dynamic to the team. Laura also demonstrated a huge amount of enthusiasm for her work with a keenness for exploring different topics from the Common Agricultural Policy to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and land grabbing and taking part IFOAM EU events and activities. We hope that she gained a lot from the experience and would like to thank her for the important contribution she made to the team. We wish Laura the very best in her ongoing professional development.
7 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **1 July**  
  **TP Organics Stakeholder Forum 2014**  
  Brussels, Belgium

- **10–12 September**  
  **8th European Organic Congress**  
  Bari, Italy

- **3–5 October**  
  **Natura Food 2014**  
  Lodz, Poland

- **13–15 October**  
  **18th IFOAM Organic World Congress**  
  Istanbul, Turkey

- **17–18 November**  
  **3rd IFOAM EU Organic Processing Conference**  
  Paris, France

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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

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This newsletter exists to inform IFOAM EU members about the work of the IFOAM EU Group and its liaison and coordination office in Brussels. IFOAM EU is the European Regional Group of the worldwide umbrella organisation IFOAM and is responsible for all matters related to organic farming with a Europe-wide scope.

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Please send any comments or contributions to the newsletter to communication [at] ifoam-eu.org.

For further information contact your national board member or the office in Brussels.

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