Contents

WELCOME NOTE ........................................................................................................... 2

POLITICAL HOTSPOT .................................................................................................. 3

1 NEWS FROM IFOAM EU WORKING FIELDS .............................................................. 4

1.1 Policy ....................................................................................................................... 4

Organic regulation ........................................................................................................ 4

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) ............................................................................. 4

1.2 Food, farming and environment ............................................................................. 5

1.3 EU Research & Innovation Policy / TP Organics .................................................... 7

2 IFOAM EU DEVELOPMENTS ..................................................................................... 8

3 EVENTS ....................................................................................................................... 8

3.1 Preview of events ..................................................................................................... 8

3.2 Review of events ..................................................................................................... 11

4 MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC – SUPPORT IFOAM EU ............................... 12

5 CALENDAR OF EVENTS ............................................................................................ 12
WELCOME NOTE

On 20-21 June, European and national policy-makers and the organic community will gather in Bucharest, Romania, for the European Organic Congress 2019. The theme of this year’s edition is "Innovation and technology: how organic improves, inspires & delivers".

On 20 June, we will talk about improving agricultural policies. The first part of the day will focus on a policy crucial for all organic farmers in Europe: the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Petre Daea, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Romania and I will welcome you. After our welcome, we will be joined on stage by policy-makers and representatives of civil society. Pierre Bascou, Director Sustainability and Income Support at the European Commission’s Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development and Aard Mulders, Senior Advisor at the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of The Netherlands will join Minister Daea as key policy-makers. Luc Bas, Director of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Joachim Rukwied, President of the Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations (COPA), Tiberiu Cazacioc, Member of Expert Group on CAP at Slow Food and Aina Calafat of the Spanish Society of Organic Agriculture (SEAE) will represent civil society.

Our panel will address specific questions like, does the CAP’s new Green Architecture work for the benefit of farmers, consumers and rural communities? How can organic farmers contribute towards CAP objectives under the policy’s New Delivery Model? Can Europe do more with less budget to support its farmers and what can be done about it? We will continue the congress with a plenary on a new European organic action plan for 2020-2027, and sessions on the secondary legislation following the organic regulation.

On day two of the conference we will shift our focus to innovation and technology. At IFOAM EU we have been working on a scoping paper on emerging technologies. We identified technologies that are the most relevant for and their impacts on the organic sector, such as robotics, drones, internet of things (IoT), artificial intelligence, blockchain and gamification. Our paper also investigates trends that have developed as a result of the increased presence of technologies in the agricultural sector. It seems that many technologies are not affordable nor particularly useful for small and medium size farms. They seem to be mostly developed for large scale, capital-rich farms by using a top down approach. We invite you to join us at the European Organic Congress 2019 to discuss these first findings in-depth. With your input we will further corroborate this paper.

I’d like to invite you to join us and explore what organic can gain by using emerging technologies and improvements beyond organic. Read all about the interactive session and the workshops we will have on the European Organic Congress’ website. Moreover, I’d like to thank Bio Romania and the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development for helping us organise the Congress, and our sponsors and media partners to help make it possible!

Hope to see you there,
Jan Plagge
POLITICAL HOTSPOT

The elections of new Members to the European Parliament took place 23-26 May. As IFOAM EU we want to thank all the European citizens in 28 Member States who voted. We also extend our congratulations to the candidates that were elected. We wish them all the best for the five year to come and are looking forward to working together with the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI), the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, the Committee on Industry (ENVI), Research and Energy (ITRE), and other committees on all issues related to organic agriculture.

In the coming months, the political parties of the European Parliament (MEPs) will nominate candidates for the role of Commission President – so-called ‘Spitzenkandidat’. The party with the most seats – the European People’s Party according to the provisional results – will receive the first opportunity to attempt to form a majority in the Parliament to back their candidate – Manfred Weber. Following the election of the Commission President, the Commissioners are proposed by the Council of the European Union, based on suggestions made by the national governments. Afterwards, the European Council appoints them, and the European Parliament approves them. The new Parliament and Commission will be in office by around June and October respectively. Have a look at the European Parliament’s infographic visualising the process.

The representatives of the European citizens face many challenges. Climate change, water scarcity, and biodiversity loss to name a few. Citizens acknowledge this by purchasing more organic. Organic production and consumption have been growing for three decades. In 2017, the total land area under organic management in the EU was 14.5 million hectares compared to 11.4 million hectares in 2012. This goes hand in hand with a significant growth of the EU organic retail market, increasing from €22 billion in 2012 to €37 billion in 2017. There are now 460,000 organic farmers in the EU, representing an increase of 70% since 2007.

As the organic movement we believe that it is of vital importance that the elected officials are aware of the importance of organic’s contribution to a better world. Recent studies like the modelling exercise of the Institut du Développement Durable et des Relations Internationales (IDDRI) shows organic’s contribution to climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation. A European food and farming system based on agroecological principles can decrease emissions by up to 47%! Another study published in Nature by Frank Eyhorn et al. draws a similar picture. It concludes that organic drives sustainability in global agriculture and contributes to reaching the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To showcase organic’s contribution, IFOAM EU is taking part in several campaigns and activities – in the run-up to and after the elections. Together with several civil society organisations we are calling for an EU food policy to ensure the transition to more sustainable food systems. In parallel, we support the Fair Times campaign, urging the new Members of the Parliament to establish a fair and sustainable production and consumption agenda benefiting people and the planet. IFOAM EU also supports the Good Food Good Farming campaign. It inspires citizens to get active before and after the elections and stand up for sustainable policies for better food and farming.

To engage with us and policymakers at local, regional, national and European level, our European Organic Congress from 20 to 21 June in Bucurest, Romania. We will also use that opportunity to launch an updated version of our interactive infographic with organic market and production data.
1 NEWS FROM IFOAM EU WORKING FIELDS

1.1 Policy

Organic regulation

Workshop in Bonn on Group Certification

IFOAM – Organics International organised an international workshop on organic group certification requirements in Bonn 21-22 May 2019.

Around 35 experts from the EU and from outside the EU (Africa, South America, Asia, Australia) participated. Representatives of IFOAM EU and of the biggest EU control bodies which carry out certification outside the EU were also present. The initiative brought the organic stakeholders together to discuss and further strengthen and refine the requirements for organic group certification after more than 15 years of implementation all over the world.

The workshop was focused on the worldwide approach. The outcomes of the workshop will feed into the development of secondary legislation of the new EU organic regulation which will apply from 2021. While today group certification is only allowed in non-EU developing countries, the new EU organic regulation will allow certification of group of operators (group certification) also within the EU. The EU Commission and the EU member states will discuss the detailed requirements in the second half of 2019.

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

Agriculture Atlas 2019 - Facts and figures on EU farming policy

The English version of the Agriculture Atlas 2019 has been launched in Brussels. Besides mapping out country case studies the report illustrates the impacts of the current farming system on biodiversity, climate change, health, livestock farming and structural change.

Have a look at the report. IFOAM EU Council Member Dorota Metera from Poland participated in the lively discussion. The Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung European Union, Friends of the Earth Europe and BirdLife Europe presented the latest version accompanied by a panel discussion.

Mobilise for a better future for farmers, consumers & climate

The time has come for citizens of Member States to stand up for their rights and say which direction the EU should take. The European elections held 23-26 of May could be a game-changer for a fairer, greener, more inclusive Europe.

The Good Food Good Farming network compiled an overview of civil society campaigns, online materials and manifestos of networks across Europe to encourage people to take action and raise awareness both voters and future Members of the European Parliament (MEPs)
The overview contains activities focused on food, farming and environmental issues, as well as initiatives on poverty, discrimination or human rights. Make sure you check these inspiring initiatives and choose the cause you stand for!

1.2 Food, farming and environment

IFOAM EU calls for an integrated EU food policy in open letter to potential European Commission Presidents

Developing an integrated EU food policy and appointing a European Commission Vice President responsible for ensuring the sustainability of our food systems. These demands were put forward by 32 associations in an open letter sent to the lead candidates for the role of European Commission President on 8 May.

In the letter we urge for a transition towards sustainable food systems which will “ensure the ecological transition necessary to tackle climate change impacts, water scarcity, soil degradation, biodiversity collapse, fish stock depletion, animal welfare, chemical pollution, and food waste and loss”. To achieve this transition we urgently need an integrated common food policy and a new governance system.

The second demand of the letter focuses on the appointment of a European Commission Vice-President responsible for ensuring the sustainability of our food systems. The Vice-President should have a mandate to coordinate the efforts of the different Directorates impacting our food system. These include the DGs AGRI, CLIMA, COMP, EMPL, ENERGY, ENVI, GROW, MARE, SANTE, TRADE, and TRANSPORT.

The time for action is now if the EU wants to reclaim public policy for the public good, rebuild public confidence in the European project, and put the EU on track to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement.

Read the open letter in EN, FR, and ES.

It’s official! The Unfair Trading Practices legislation is Directive (EU) 2019/633

Good news for our avid readers that followed the legislative process of the Directive on Unfair Trading Practices. The Directive has been published in the EU’s Official Journal. This means that it is officially recognized under the following name and number: Directive (EU) 2019/633 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on unfair trading practices in business-to-business relationships in the agricultural and food supply chain.

As a small reminder, this directive prohibits 16 unfair trading practices, including late payments, and protects smaller suppliers from their bigger buyer counterparts. The European Commission’s Directorate General for Agriculture has published a very well-made guidance document explaining the provisions of this directive. Have a look should you be interested in finding out more.
Civil society calls for Commissioners that support future generations

In a co-signed letter, IFOAM EU and 54 other civil society organisation ask the European Heads of State and Government to nominate candidates for the European Commission who will restore faith in the EU, provide a better future for all of us and for the planet.

The signees also request European policies, rules and standards that protect and safeguard well-being and health, ensure safety and freedom for people, and protect the climate and the environment. Europe needs to lead and support a just transition towards a sustainable economy and society for all people.

Update on IFOAM EU’s work on access to land

Learning together about innovative land strategies to strengthen agroecology and the food sovereignty movement in Europe. That is the goal of Erasmus partnership that the European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC), Terre de Liens, IFOAM EU, Urgenci, Eco Ruralis, the Transnational Institute, and the Real Farming Trust launched. The partners will organise a training seminar on local land strategies in September.

IFOAM EU’s members can read more information about the upcoming training seminar on the IFOAM EU member extranet.

For more information about membership, contact ifoameu_membership [at] ifoam-eu.org. For more information about IFOAM EU’s work on access to land, contact isabella.lang [at] ifoam-eu.org.

What would happen if organic farming and agroecology become the norm? Read the latest report

Transitioning European agriculture to agroecology by 2050 yields emission reductions from 40% to 47%, and benefits biodiversity, natural resources, adaptation, and health. These are the findings of the Ten Years For Agroecology (TYFA) study “Agroecology and carbon neutrality in Europe by 2050: what are the issues?”.

The scenario demonstrates that climate and biodiversity can be improved simultaneously by changing agricultural practices. It is based on abandoning pesticides and synthetic fertilisers, redeploying natural grasslands and extending agroecological infrastructures like hedges, trees, ponds and stony habitats. It also looks at healthier diets with a reduced consumption of animal products, and a higher consumption of fruit and vegetables to sustainably feed 530 million Europeans in 2050. The study takes into account a 35% drop in production based on the lower production in agroecological systems.

The authors of the study are Pierre-Marie Aubert, Marie-Hélène Schwoob (IDDRI) and Xavier Poux (AScA, IDDRI). IFOAM EU commissioned the study.

This article has received financial support from: The French government in the framework of the programme “Investissements d’avenir”, managed by ANR (the French National Research Agency) under the reference ANR-10-LABX-01; The European Union, under the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME); The foundation Charles Léopold Mayer pour le Progrès de l’Homme.
The organic movement urges the European Commission to act now on new GMOs

Following years of debate about the legal status of new genetic engineering techniques the European Court of Justice clarified the situation in July 2018. It ruled that plants made from new techniques are GMOs and must be regulated as GMOs. The organic movement welcomed this landmark decision.

It is crucial that the European Commission and all member states now implement this decision. No new GMOs should be marketed without risk assessment, prior authorization and traceability. In that regard, the work of the next European Commission that will be appointed end of 2019 will be decisive. That is why IFOAM EU and 23 other organizations sent a letter to all Spitzenkandidaten on 17 May. In this letter the signees urge them not to give in to strong pressure from biotechnology companies and open the existing EU legislation developed to protect human health and the environment.

IFOAM EU also co-signed a letter with 27 other organisations sent to Vice President Katainen on 22 May. The current European Commission is currently establishing the work programme of the next Commission. The 28 signatories clearly remind the European Commission than any attempt to modify the current process-based GMO legislation and the seed legislation to exempt GMOs derived from new techniques would be unacceptable.

For more information about IFOAM EU’s work on GMOs, contact pauline.verriere [at] ifoam-eu.org.

1.3 EU Research & Innovation Policy / TP Organics

Connecting thematic networks as knowledge reservoirs: the EURAKNOS project

IFOAM EU is part of the Horizon 2020 EURAKNOS project. It aims to create a network that will strengthen the EU agricultural knowledge base by collecting existing knowledge and best practices from the other 29 existing thematic networks.

Professor Pieter Spanoghe from Ghent University is Coordinator of the project. He explains: “Thematic networks are a specific type of Horizon 2020 multi-actor projects which collect existing knowledge and best practices on a given theme (smart farming, poultry, crop protection, fruit, etc.) to make it available in easily understandable formats for end users such as farmers, foresters, advisers and others. EURAKNOS can be seen as the network of the networks that will analyse this knowledge to explore the feasibility of creating a modular database that makes this information more accessible to the farming community in a searchable and semi-standardized way.”

Read the full press release of the EURAKNOS project.

The EURAKNOS project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No: 817863
2 IFOAM EU DEVELOPMENTS

Interested in changing the world through your work? Join us! We’re recruiting policy officers on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and on GMOs

IFOAM EU currently has two open positions for environmentally ambitious individuals that would like to join our team.

We are looking for a professional with good knowledge of EU agricultural and other relevant environmental policies, in particular of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Are you good at researching complex policy topics? Are you even better at translating them into effective advocacy messages? Read the full vacancy and apply by sending the application form to employment [at] ifoam-eu.org by 2 June 2019.

IFOAM EU is also searching for an experienced Policy Officer. The main responsibilities of this position include coordinating policy projects and monitoring and advocacy work in the field of GMO-free food and farming, patents and seeds. Read the full vacancy and apply by sending your application form and a short sample of your written work in English to employment [at] ifoam-eu.org by 9 June 2019.

Have you ever wondered what IFOAMEU is and does? Read our brochure and find out more about who are and what we are doing at EU level

Read IFOAM EU’s updated brochure about its past, present and future work to learn about IFOAM EU’s structure, vision and advocacy work. This publication presents the movement’s achievements over the last years in a nutshell. Our achievements include ensuring support for the development of organic and agroecology under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), shaping the new organic regulation and many more. You can also find out more about the topics IFOAM EU will be working on in the future, ranging from making our vision happen to the CAP reform.

3 EVENTS
3.1 Preview of events

Organic Iberia
6-7 June 2019, Madrid, Spain

Organic Food Iberia brings the organic sector of the Iberian Peninsula and Mediterranean region together. They will gather for two action-packed days of business and networking, product launches and tastings, innovation and insights, exclusive free seminars, chef demos and keynotes by some of the biggest names in the organic world.

IFOAM EU will be there too. As partner in this show, Director Eduardo Cuoco will take part in the opening ceremony and co-present an opening day keynote on the latest developments in organic food and farming worldwide. Julia Lernoud from the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) will join him.
In a recent interview for Natural Products Global, Eduardo talked about the importance of this new fair: “Spain is a powerhouse of organic production in Europe, and Organic Food Iberia is a timely initiative that will contribute to linking the different actors of the organic supply chain and to developing the local organic markets of Spain and Portugal. I hope that the event will incentivise the Spanish and Portuguese governments to recognize the benefits of organic farming for the economy and the environment, and further support its development. I am confident that Organic Food Iberia will facilitate the cooperation among our members in the Iberian Peninsula and create momentum for increased IFOAM EU membership in these countries, so we further strengthen the European organic movement.”

If you are attending Organic Food Iberia you will have the chance to discuss hot topics such as the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the implementation of the new EU organic regulation during a meeting organised by IFOAM EU, Ecovalia and AgroBio.

Organic Food Iberia, Spain’s new international organic trade fair, will take place at IFEMA exhibition centre in Madrid, on 6-7 June and will feature over 500 exhibiting companies, showcasing products from across Spain, Portugal, Germany, France, Denmark, The Netherlands, the UK, USA and more.

For more information and to register for a free trade ticket to attend, please visit www.organicfoodiberia.com or www.ecolivingiberia.com and quote priority code OFI29. Alternatively, use the direct link: https://eventdata.uk/Visitor/OrganicFoodEcoLivingIberia2019.aspx.

The organic sector: a front-runner aware of social and environmental issues
18 June 2019, Paris, France

Increasing the organic movement’s involvement in social and environmental issues even further is important in these times. This is why stakeholders from the organic movement will meet at the 14th edition of the International Seminar of Organic Farming organised by Agence Bio in Paris on 18 June 2019.

IFOAM EU Board Member and sector representative for certification Michel Reynaud will take part in a panel discussion about the global market of the organic sector. The dialogue will focus on imported organic products and on measures to create a more transparent, ethical and fair organic trade.

Three reasons to attend the European Organic Congress
20-21 June in Bucharest, Romania

Soon, European and national policy-makers and the organic community will gather in Bucharest, Romania for the European Organic Congress 2019 "Innovation and technology: how organic improves, inspires & delivers".

Still not sure why you should join? Here are three good reasons to attend the European Organic Congress 2019:

1. Outstanding high-level speakers on the Common Agricultural Policy
During the congress, participants will have the opportunity to listen to high level speakers from different backgrounds, national ministries, European Commission, farmers and entrepreneurs, representatives from NGOs and civil society. Among these:

- **Petre Daea**, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Romania. His experience in Romanian politics, especially related to agriculture, stretches back to 1973;

- **Pierre Bascou**, Director for Sustainability and income support at the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development. From 2003 - 2009 he headed the Unit in charge of the economic analysis of EU agriculture for the conception, the management and the evaluation of the Common Agricultural Policy;

- **Luc Bas**, Director of the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s European Regional Office in Brussels;

- **Ioana Dragos**, Project Manager for the Interreg Europe-funded SME Organics project since 2016. She has more than 15 years of experience in regional development within the North-West Regional Development Agency in Northern Transylvania, Romania and coordinated the elaboration of the first Regional Organic Action Plan in Romania.

Curious to find out who the other speakers are? Check the full programme and follow us on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook to learn about them.

2. The official launch of the “We Unite” video

IFOAM EU is proud to announce that this year’s European Organic Congress marks the official launch of the film ‘We Unite’. This 12-minute video is produced by IFOAM – Organics International and offers a window into the lives of two organic farmers and the reasons why they join the yearly ‘We are Fed-Up’ demonstration in Germany. Along with hundreds of other farmers, they drive their tractors into the heart of Berlin where they unite with thousands of citizens calling for a better food and farming system for all. The film covers issues like access to land, relinking farmers with consumers, feeding the soil to feed the plant, public money for public goods, a new food system that provides fair prices to farmworkers and nourishing food to people.

Join us in Bucharest, Romania to watch ‘We Unite’ premier with us!

3. An excursion to discover organic in Romania

When in Romania at a congress about organic agriculture it makes sense to experience organic. Join the excursion! On Friday 21 June we will visit the National Agricultural Research and Development Institute in Fundulea. On Saturday 22 June the farmers of Eco Fruct Sultana will show us how they grow their organic fruits in Calarasi.

Find out more about the excursion and register.

What are you waiting for? Go to organic-congress-ifoameu.org, register now and stay tuned for updates on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook using #EUorganic2030. Registration is open until 14 June. Make sure to secure your seat on time!
Agri-Innovation Summit 2019
25 June 2019, Lisieux, France

The second edition of the Agro-Innovation Summit will address the contribution of EIP-AGRI to the transition to agroecology. It will bring together representatives from EIP-AGRI projects throughout Europe, including LIVESEED, as well as local actors and experts. TP Organics’ Advisory Board Member and president of Agroecology Europe, Paola Migliorini, will be one of the three rapporteurs wrapping up the event.

Participation is by invitation only. The 2019 edition of the Agro-Innovation Summit follows the successful 2017 edition in Lisbon.

3.2 Review of events

Ensuring organic’s high standards on piglet castration at EU level
16 May 2019
Brussels, Belgium

IFOAM EU Policy Coordinator Isabella Lang participated in the European expert group on pig castration. The group is a voluntary sub-group within the European Animal Welfare taskforce hosted by the European Commission’s The Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE).

IFOAM EU’s members can read more information about the meeting on the IFOAM EU member extranet.

For more information about membership, contact IFOAMEU_membership [at] ifoam-eu.org. For more information about IFOAM EU’s work on animal welfare, contact isabella.lang [at] ifoam-eu.org.

Representing the organic movement at “Crop Protection: Education of the Future Generation” - IUPAC Congress
19-24 May 2019
Ghent, Belgium

The theme of the 14th IUPAC Congress on Crop Protection was: "Crop Protection: Education of the Future Generation". It gathered 1500 participants engaged in crop protection, from synthetic pesticides to biological pest control, from all over the world.

IFOAM EU Director Eduardo Cuoco was invited to join the panel discussion "Farming in 10, 20 and 30 years". On Tuesday 21 May he shared the vision of the organic movement for the future of agriculture and crop production. Eduardo stressed that we need a transition guided by organic principles towards a more sustainable agri-food system that is able to address socio-economic and environmental challenges. In 30 years, at least 50% of agricultural land will be organic instead of the 7% we have now. A crucial element is to reward practices that deliver public goods and make polluters pay for the cost of externalities that society bears. The ideal way to do this is incorporating true cost accounting into the economics of farming. Organic is the most promising option for the future of farming. It is a model...
for sustainable farming and food systems that supports a culture of innovation based on holistic principles leading to more resilient and productive farming systems, greater biodiversity, better food quality, more appropriate processing and fairer supply chains.

Agricultural projects learn from each other at the FarmDemo
22 May 2019
Brussels, Belgium

Farmers, advisors, researchers and policy-makers exchanged on the benefits of peer-to-peer learning through demonstration activities at the FarmDemo Conference. Participants had a chance to discuss and learn how to design better on-farm demonstrations and increase their impact. The tools and the findings of the three projects behind the FarmDemo platform – Plaid, NEFERTITI and AgriDemo – were shared and are also available online. Among them, a newly published Design Guide for on-farm demonstrations and a database where you can find a demo farm in your region or display your own farm. Follow the NEFERTITI project if you want to attend a farm demo campaign on organic arable or livestock topic.

4 MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC – SUPPORT IFOAM EU

IFOAM EU KEY SUPPORTERS 2019

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.

5 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

05-08 June 2019
Liveseed Cross-visit
Bologna, Italy

06 June 2019
Organic Food Iberia
Madrid, Spain

19-20 June 2019
IFOAM EU Council meeting
Bucharest, Romania

19-20 June 2019
Liveseed National Workshop
Bucharest, Romania