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Dear readers,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the newsletter as the new director of IFOAM EU.

Let me start with thanking you all for your good wishes and your encouraging messages during my first weeks in this new position – I really appreciate this very warm welcome and it will surely help me perform my new duties well!

Please, allow me to use these columns to give a short presentation of myself and what motivated me to accept such an important position in the organic movement.

Born in Naples in 1980, I became involved in the organic movement at early stage. I started working for organic organisations in Italy in 1998, while I was studying for a master of science in food science and technologies.

I was very lucky to have the opportunity to experience working with farmers, food companies, certifiers, extension services and local, regional and national authorities. During this phase of my career, I focused on the regional and national development of organic policies in Italy, especially as regards rural development plans, promotional and certification schemes. Furthermore, I also had the chance to better understand the needs of the organic sector by being an innovation broker for technological and social development. This broad experience pushed me to enlarge my understanding of “organics”, its needs and its specificities.

In 2008 I started at IFOAM EU and was assigned to be the coordinator of the Technology Platform for organic food and farming (TP Organics). I had the great honour to help make TP Organics into what it is today: an acknowledged European Technology Platform with a successful track record of shaping EU research and the aim of making our movement more robust and more capable of responding to current and future innovation challenges.

During these years, I had the chance to witness the growth of IFOAM EU and to work with many skilled people sharing the common objective of Making Europe More Organic.

I decided to accept the offer to become IFOAM EU Director as I would like to keep contributing to the worldwide adoption of organic farming methods and, more concretely, to personally participate in making the “Organic vision for Europe 2030” reality. The participatory vision process performed by IFOAM EU tried to define where the organic movement wants to be in 2030 and will help us all proactively prepare to face the future by providing a common direction.

As follow up of the vision development, the IFOAM EU membership approved an internal strategy that is going to guide the work of the organisation in the coming years in order to concretize the organic movement’s vision at the IFOAM EU General Assembly this past April.

The strategy takes into account the vision, the specific challenges that IFOAM EU and the organic movements are facing, the relevant European policy processes – such as the new organic regulation, the review of the Common Agriculture Policy, the establishment of the European Food Research Area – as well as actions to strengthen our organisation in terms of representativeness & resources – In addition to addressing to policy issues, it also aims to make the movement stronger.

My colleagues and I are committed to implementing this very ambitious strategy and, with your support, we will work hard to make our vision become reality.

Enjoy your reading,
Eduardo
ORGANIC IN EUROPE

EXPLORE THE INTERACTIVE MAP

PRODUCTION & RETAIL DATA BY COUNTRY

ifoam-eu.org/en/organic-europe

BROWSE DATA ON ORGANIC PRODUCTION AND RETAIL

- How much land is farmed organically in your country?
- How did organic farm land evolve in the last 10 years?
- How many processors & producers produce our organic food?
- Where do people buy the most organic?
- How much does the average person spend on organic?
POLITICAL HOTSPOT

PATENTS ON SEEDS

Patents on seeds are a crucial issue for the organic movement and for society, as patents foster further market concentration in the seed sector, hamper competition and innovation, reduce the variety of (organic) seed available and contribute to corporate control over farming and the food chain. Read more on why patents on seeds are crucial in the IFOAM EU January newsletter.

Despite numerous scandals over the years and calls by civil society and part of the seeds sector, the Commission had always refused to re-open the “biotech inventions” Directive (1998/44) and to clarify the legal situation. But now, at a symposium, “Finding the Balance”, organised by the Dutch Presidency and the European Commission on 18 May, Commissioner Bienkowska promised to issue a “clarifying notice” on patents on seeds “in the 2nd half of the year.”

Agriculture Minister van Dam said that the breeding “innovation model is under pressure because of patents on seeds” and are in conflict with traditional Plant Variety Rights, a well-balanced system adapted to breeding. He also said that “patents should ensure gains made through innovation, not prevent others from innovating.” Patent-law expert Dr. Axel Metzger said that “policy-makers should decide if society has an interest in changing the innovation model of the breeding industry and the structure of the European agriculture sector” and asked: “should patent attorneys decide on policy?” Dutch organic seed breeder De Bolster was interviewed and said that “because of the patent on sweet pepper [granted by the EPO], [they] now have to test all [their] breeding material” and had to stop using a number of varieties for breeding as these varieties are now de facto covered by patents on natural traits.

Most stakeholders present, including the European Seed Association, Copa-Cogeca, IFOAM EU and the civil society coalition No Patents on Seeds, strongly criticised the extension of the patent system to plants, animals and native traits, and the European Patent Office (EPO) decisions to allow patents on products obtained through essentially biological processes, which are normally excluded from patentability in both the EU legislation and the European Patent Convention. They urged the Commission to provide legal clarity and certainty regarding this exclusion. Thor Kofoed from Copa-Cogeca said “we don’t need patents on seeds […] Patents mean more lawyers, less farmers!” Christoph Then from No Patents on Seeds said that one-third of patent applications on plants now relate to conventional breeding, and added that a legal interpretation is needed but that it may not be enough. Ultimately a revision of the both Biopatents Directive 98/44 and of the European Patent Convention may be needed. Jan Huitema, MEP, reminded participants that the European Parliament support these calls (resolutions adopted in 2012 and in December 2015). Only the biotech industry association Europabio defended the patent system for plants.

In a press release, the IFOAM EU delegation urged the Commission to urgently clarify that seeds and genetic traits that can be found in nature and obtained through conventional breeding cannot be patented. Thomas Fertl, IFOAM EU Board member and farmers’ representative, highlighted the negative impact of these patents on organic farmers and breeders and stressed that a legal interpretation would be of limited impact as long as the European Patent Office (which is formed by 38 member states) did not change its implementing regulation.
Jean Bergevin, Head of the Intellectual Property Unit at the European Commission, said that the Commission was well aware of the problem and that the issue of what should not be patented was already at the heart of the discussions that led to the Biotech Directive in the 1990s. He said that “maintaining the status quo [was] undesirable on several levels.” But he warned that re-opening Directive 98/44 would be “risky and lengthy” and that more rapid solutions were needed and possible. Elżbieta Bienkowska, Commissioner for the Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, concluded the symposium by promising that the Commission will issue a “clarifying notice” as well as “accompanying measures” to improve “transparency” on the issue “in the second half of the year”.

IFOAM EU will continue its work and collaboration with others to ensure that the upcoming legal interpretation by the Commission will be clear enough to have a concrete impact and foster change at the EPO.

Dutch IFOAM EU member Bionext has been running a successful campaign against patents on seeds for several years. At the beginning of May they launched a new public campaign “The largest seedbank of the Netherlands”. Every citizen can participate in this campaign by buying a set of organic seeds of five different crops that are endangered by patents and use their own fridge/garden to become a branch/subsidiary of the seedbank.

All subsidiaries are visualized on a map of the Netherlands on the campaign website. The message to consumers is to help us to preserve agrobiodiversity; if we do not put an end to patents on seed we will end up with only one (patented) type of tomato, broccoli or other vegetable and all special varieties will no longer be available on the market.

As part of the campaign a short film explains the consequences of patents of seeds in a simple way. This film is in Dutch with English subtitles.

Visit the campaign’s website (in Dutch) and contact Maaike Raaijmakers for more information.

The campaign video – in Dutch with English subtitles – provides an overview of the campaign.
1 NEWS FROM IFOAM EU WORKING FIELDS

1.1 REGULATION

NEW IMPLEMENTING REGULATION

On 29 April an implementing regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 was published; it covers multiple areas, including:

- Clarifies that the term ‘seaweed’ used in the organic regulation covers also multi-cellular marine algae, phytoplankton and micro-algae
- Postpones the end of the derogation allowing operators to use 50% non-organic aquaculture juveniles and bivalve shellfish seed in organic aquaculture from the end of 2015 to the end of 2016
- Postpones the deadline for the Commission to review some oenological practices, processes and treatments, namely heat treatments, use of ion exchange and reverse osmosis from 2015 to 2018
- Clarifies some aspects about temporary derogations for livestock concerning continuing or recommencing organic production in the case of high mortality of animals caused by health problems or catastrophic circumstances and it extends the possibility of derogation to aquaculture animals

Another important change is the restructuration and simplification of annexes II, VI and VIII of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 and their harmonisation with horizontal legislations. The conditions for using some substances have been modified and new substances have been added.

For Annex II on plant protection products, the additions are:

- Basic substances are recognised in the horizontal Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 on plant protection products; these are substances whose primary use is not as plant protection product and that do not have any harmful effects, immediate or delayed, on human and animal health nor an unacceptable effect on the environment. 11 such basic substances are recognised in the horizontal legislation. The new implementing regulation allows for the use of basic substances as plant protection products in organic, but only if they are already defined as a foodstuff and are of plant or animal origin. In practice, this applies to substances like vinegar, sucrose, fructose and lecithins, etc.

For food processing – Annex VIII – the following substances were added:

- As additives: gellan gum, beeswax, carnauba wax and erythritol. The 3 last substances can be used only if they are derived from organically produced raw material.
- As food processing aids: Acetic acid / vinegar, wood fibre, and only for use in fruit wines thiamin hydrochloride and diammonium phosphate.

Some conditions for use have changed and are stricter. For example, only organic potato starch can be used in organic yeast production and – after a transition period – only lecithins derived from organically produced raw material will be allowed.

For feed, three new substances have been added as nutritional additives (compounds of trace elements): selenised yeast inactivated, zinc chloride hydroxide monohydrate and dicopper chloride trihydroxide.

The IFOAM EU website offers an overview of all the organic regulations
**1.2 POLICY**

**CLIMATE CHANGE**

**EFFORT SHARING DECISION PROPOSAL COULD INCLUDE “FLEXIBILITY” FOR AGRICULTURE EMISSIONS**

According to media Climate Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete has indicated that the forthcoming Effort Sharing Decision (ESD) proposal on GHG emissions reduction – currently expected to be issued by 10 July – could include “flexibilities” for the farming sector, based on offsetting by sources of carbon sinks such as forests.

The Effort Sharing Decision will propose how to allocate a new 30% emissions reduction target (part of the EU commitment to reduce GHG emissions by 40% by 2030) among Member States for non-industrial sectors including transport, buildings, waste and agriculture. The Member States’ ESD targets will be based on their GDP, with some consideration given to the cost-effectiveness of emissions reductions for richer member states.

Commissioner Cañete said that the proposal would provide flexibility for agriculture through measures on land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF). In practice this could mean offsetting agriculture emissions with forestry. This is despite the fact that emissions from agriculture represent a significant share of emissions in many Member States, and are projected to represent one third of total EU emissions by 2050.

The Commission is justifying the potential flexibility for the agriculture sector on the October 2014 European Council conclusions, which explicitly mention “the lower mitigation potential of agriculture” and “the need to ensure food security.”

**Flexibility between LULUCF emissions and sinks and the ESD is firmly opposed by NGOs**, as it would undermine the overall environmental integrity of the EU climate and energy package for 2030. NGOs and IFOAM EU believe that the agriculture sector should do its part in the European effort to prevent dangerous climate change, and not be exempted from significant action at the expense of other economic sectors. As the SOLMACC project demonstrates, there are many agricultural practices that can reduce emissions, many of which also deliver other environmental benefits and economic advantages for farmers.

IFOAM EU also stresses that the mitigation potential of agricultural practices and farming systems should not be considered apart from their potential contributions to climate change adaptation, biodiversity, soil health, water pollution and animal welfare.

**GMO**

**GREENPEACE UNCOVERS US INFLUENCE ON NEW GENETIC ENGINEERING TECHNIQUES**

Greenpeace has revealed that the European Commission is hesitating to regulate new GMOs due to US lobbying. Internal Commission documents obtained by NGOs under the freedom of information law revealed that US representatives lobbied very hard on the issue of new genetic engineering techniques and asked the Commission not to regulate plants and animal produced through gene editing and other similar techniques under the GMO legislation. They were successful as the Commission decided to delay issuing the legal interpretation that was apparently already ready and included the interpretation that at least some of these techniques should be regulated as GMOs. The Commission had announced that the long awaited legal interpretation was postponed to the end of 2016. Read more on Greenpeace EU’s website.
FOOD, FARMING AND ENVIRONMENT

TTIP LEAKS

13 of the 17 chapters of the official document of the TTIP negotiations were released by Greenpeace Netherlands at the beginning of May. The classified documents are the latest versions drafted after the round of TTIP negotiations that took place in New York in April. The 13 chapters address issues ranging from telecommunications to regulatory cooperation, and from pesticides, food and agriculture to trade barriers.

The chapter on agriculture is about difference between the sectors in the EU and the US, focusing on the guiding philosophy for their respective support and how it hinders agreement between the two parties. For more information, visit the website of the TTIP leaks.

TTIP HARMSES FOOD AND AGRICULTURE: NEW STUDIES

A new Friends of the Earth study brings together emerging research to show expected changes, especially the negative impact on the agriculture sector. For example, export opportunities created through any TTIP do not necessarily translate into better incomes, with the US Department of Agriculture predicting falls in the price paid to EU farmers in every food category (Beckman, et al., 2015). European gains are restricted to a few sectors, such as cheese, but even these are highly dependent on the US making changes to the ‘non-tariff measures’ that it uses to restrict trade (Bureau, et al., 2014).

A new Austrian study, conducted by BioAustria, Greenpeace and the supermarket chain Spar, also shows the effects of TTIP on the Austrian agricultural and food sector. TTIP would not have significant positive effects on the Austrian economy overall. What’s more, the agricultural and food sectors would face the strongest negative effects, with the beef sector the most affected. It concludes that TTIP is a losing game for Austrian economy. These results do not take into account the “side effects” of the trade agreement, such as weakening of standards, which are key concerns for many organisations and civil society. For further information visit BioAustria’s website.

Download all leaked documents on the TTIP leaks website. © GettyImages/Greenpeace
1.3 EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION POLICY / TP ORGANICS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO LAUNCH “FOOD 2030”

The European Commission, DG Research and Innovation, is developing a new policy framework – “Food 2030” – to better organise, connect and scale-up European research and innovation for food and nutrition security in a global context. On 11 May, the European Commission organised the first workshop with researchers and representatives of the food industry to identify key areas of research and innovation for Food 2030. IFOAM EU and TP Organics were present and stressed the need to create transparency in the food chain and reconnect consumers with food production. TP Organics also asked for research into the development of technologies for minimal food processing. The Commission is expected to launch “Food 2030” on 13 October.

OK-NET ARABLE: EXCHANGE KNOWLEDGE, ENHANCE FARMING

The OK-Net Arable project promotes exchange of knowledge among farmers, farm advisers and scientists with the aim to increase productivity and quality in organic arable cropping in Europe. Since the start of the project one year ago, the following has been achieved:

Scientific analysis of constraints in organic arable cropping

Based on most recent scientific literature, OK-Net Arable identified the barriers for increasing productivity in organic arable cropping and made recommendations in the areas of soil fertility and nutrient management, weed control and pest and disease control.

Farmer innovation groups share common challenges

OK-Net Arable works with 14 farmer innovation groups, located in 10 countries distributed throughout Europe. These are groups of organic arable farmers engaged in research and innovation. OK-Net Arable brought together the common challenges identified by the groups in a report. These include weed management, soil fertility, and pest and disease control. The report gives a good overview of challenges faced by organic arable farmers in Europe and presents solutions that the farmer innovation groups have been working on. All those working on this topic may be interested.

Best methods for learning and knowledge exchange

OK-Net Arable has analysed how farmers and farm advisers access information. The findings show that the use of printed media is still widespread and that physical meetings (e.g. field days) are preferred to anonymous online courses. Nevertheless, it was also found that social media is changing the way information is spread and highlights the importance of online videos in the exchange of knowledge across borders.

SHARE YOUR INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

The findings mentioned above are now being used to identify advisory materials and solutions that respond to the farmers’ challenges. The farmer innovation groups will be fully involved in this, but you are also invited to contribute.

Share your innovative solutions for enhancing arable farming by completing the template and sending it to Bram Moeskops.

The materials collected will be made available on the OK-Net Arable knowledge platform which will be launched this fall.

This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 652654. This communication only reflects the author’s view. The Research Executive Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.
NEW CALLS FOR FOCUS GROUPS EXPECTED

A call for experts for the next three EIP-AGRI Focus Groups will be published early June. The deadline for applications will be mid-July. The topics of the new Focus Groups are:

- Robust and resilient dairy production systems: the focus group will investigate how to create good conditions for dairy cattle husbandry in different production systems
- Agroforestry: the focus group will investigate how to develop agroforestry as a sustainable farming system which can boost agricultural productivity and profitability
- Diseases and pests in viticulture: the focus group will investigate how the resilience of grape vines to pests and diseases can be increased and how productivity can be supported in a sustainable way?

Keep an eye on the IFOAM EU and EIP-AGRI website to find out when the calls are open.

NEW EIP-AGRI PUBLICATIONS

NEW ENTRANTS INTO FARMING

A new EIP report concludes that new entrants are important drivers of innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture. New entrants are people that start a farming business with limited prior experience in agriculture and, according to the findings, they are more likely to be involved in alternative agricultural systems such as organic farming and short supply chains. The most important barrier for new entrants is access to land. Other constraints include access to labour, capital, housing, information, and markets. The Focus Group has identified opportunities to address these challenges and proposed research that could help new entrants to join the farming sector.

Read the report and fact sheet.

PERMANENT GRASSLAND

The Focus Group on the “Profitability of Permanent Grasslands” has published its report showing permanent grasslands support biodiversity and provide important ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and attractive landscapes. But the area of permanent grasslands in Europe is declining. The Focus Group made practical recommendations, identified fail factors, and proposed research aimed at increasing the profitability of permanent grasslands in a sustainable way, in order to contribute to their conservation.

Read the report and fact sheet.

COOPERATING FOR GENETIC RESOURCES

A new EIP-AGRI brochure is available with examples of cooperation models for the conservation and promotion of genetic resources and breeds. The brochure aims to inspire people to test new ways to cooperate and provides ideas for innovative projects in the field of genetic resources.

Read the brochure.

OPERATIONAL GROUPS: FIRST EXPERIENCE EXCHANGE

More than 70 Operational Groups to respond to the real needs of farmers and foresters have now been established. On 20-21 April 2016, the European Commission organised a workshop to exchange experience.

Read the presentations, which include examples of Operational Groups and of how some Rural Development authorities are funding Operational Groups.
2 IFOAM EU DEVELOPMENTS

SAYING GOODBYE TO OUR COLLEAGUES…

Andra Korb
In April, the IFOAM EU policy team said all the best to Andra Korb after her year-long experience as a volunteer. Andra’s background in the Romanian organic food and farming sector and interest in learning about the EU policy environment and issues relevant to organic farming brought a new dynamic to the office. Andra demonstrated enthusiasm for exploring different topics through participation in different EU policy events and support in the development of IFOAM EU policy materials. She also actively took part in IFOAM EU activities and event including the first Eastern Europe Organic Forum held in Romania in October 2015. We hope that she gained a lot from the experience and would like to thank her for the notable contribution to the policy team. We wish Andra the very best in her ongoing professional development.

Helena Procházková
At the end of April, IFOAM EU and especially the research and innovation unit bid farewell and good luck to Helena. Helena’s cheerful character brought a happy spirit to the unit. She provided great assistance in the day-to-day office work and organisation of meetings. Being asked, she said that the assessment of research projects funded by ERA-Net Core Organic was one of her biggest achievements during her stay. We can only confirm this. Helena will now continue her Master’s studies at the University of South Bohemia (Czech Republic). We would like to thank her for her work and wish her all the best in her studies and future career!

Katerina Taleva
During the year that Katerina was a valued member of the communications unit, Katerina took ownership of a number of projects regarding our media work, website and IT. Her good humour, enthusiasm, smile and sense of responsibility made working with Katerina a great pleasure and her contribution to making Europe more organic did not go unnoticed. We’re convinced that she’s taking an even better understanding of how the organic movement and EU institutions function with her and are sure that she’ll apply this knowledge to the benefit of the organic movement in Bulgaria. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours and are sure that our paths will cross again.

The European Volunteer service is funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union. The sole responsibility for the content lies with the author and the communication reflects only the author’s view. The National Agency and European Commission are not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.
3 EVENTS

3.1 PREVIEW OF EVENTS

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SUMMIT: NEW HORIZONS FOR ECO-LABELS AND SUSTAINABILITY

9–10 June, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Leading organisations involved in eco-labels and sustainability in the food industry will gather to discuss sustainable topics in the food industry. This year’s edition focuses on sustainable ingredients, food waste, marketing developments and sustainability initiatives and the summit will look at approaches to reduce food losses in the supply chain as well as waste at consumer level. IFOAM EU will be moderating a panel discussion.

Since 2009, the Sustainable Foods Summit has been discussing leading issues the food industry faces concerning sustainability and eco-labels, such as Organic, Fair Trade, Rainforest Alliance, UTZ Certified, etc. The aim of the Sustainable Foods Summit is to explore new horizons for eco-labels and sustainability in the food industry.

SUSTAINABLE FOODS SUMMIT
Amsterdam, 9–10 June 2016

SAVE THE DATE

4TH EUROPEAN ORGANIC PROCESSING CONFERENCE

24–25 NOVEMBER 2016
Seville, Spain

More information soon on organicfoodprocessing.eu
3.2 REVIEW OF EVENTS

SEMINAR FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ORGANISED BY IFOAM EU VOLUNTEERS

14 April, Brussels, Belgium

As a part of their year-long experience, European Volunteers at IFOAM EU organised a workshop, focused on the COP21 Agreement and climate change worldwide as well as in their home countries. The main aim was to increase awareness amongst other interns and volunteers about the biggest environmental and social problems, caused by this issue and how we can contribute to its solution.

As the agreement reached in Paris at the end of 2015, is an important step forward, the volunteers wanted to explain why it is necessary to have such a common framework that commits all countries. They looked at the effects of climate change on a global level, but also using examples from areas in the Czech Republic and Latvia, so that everyone understands how a country can be affected by it. Guests were very proactive in the following discussion. They shared the impacts from climate change in their home countries, in which activities they are involved and how they contribute to the local environment and the society. The discussions were also lucky to benefit from the participation of Eric Gall, policy manager at IFOAM EU, who has considerable expertise in the matter.

NATURAL & ORGANIC PRODUCTS EUROPE

17–18 April, London, England

Renowned for attracting a who’s who of buyers from across the health, beauty, food and eco-living categories, Natural & Organic Products Europe welcomed a record 10,226 total attendees from 86 countries through its doors last month. Thanks to a 10% increase in attendees for 2016, the 20th anniversary edition played host to the biggest trade showcase (and celebration) of the natural and organic industry that the UK has ever seen. The central exhibition was complemented with a packed programme of expert seminars and live cooking demonstrations.

IFOAM EU Communication Manager Laura Ullmann presented the latest European information on organic production and market trends to a full audience eager to take home Organic in Europe: Prospects and Developments 2016. The new IFOAM EU / FiBL interactive map was also widely welcomed.

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INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY SERVICES – HIGHLIGHTS FROM AGRISPIN CROSS-VISIT

8–12 May, Frankfurt, Germany

The Agrispin project is studying innovation in agriculture support services across Europe. Partners gathered in Germany at the beginning of May for exchange and site visits. Among innovation cases studied was the “organic sector trainee programme”, which has been co-funded by the German federal program for organic farming and participating organisations since 2002. The programme aims to providing companies with highly qualified staff equipped with soft skills and knowledge about the organic value chain. Each year, 25 trainees from companies and organizations all across Germany receive a qualification from the programme. The case is a unique example of the power of participatory approaches within a sector. One company alone would be too small to set up its own trainee programme, but the collaboration allows them to run a programme for young professionals who are committed to work in the organic sector and helps to strengthen networking within the organic sector in Germany. Get inspired by this and other innovative cases studied during the Agrispin cross-visit.

VIENNA GMO-FREE CONFERENCE

25 May, Vienna, Austria

IFOAM EU participated in the International GMO-free Labelling Conference, organised by the Austrian Environment and Health Ministries, VLOG and Ohne Gentechnik, the German and Austrian industry associations for GMO-free labelling. The conference highlighted the powerful, dynamic and rapid development of GMO-free labelling in the region and other countries, at both the market and production levels.

Eric Gall, Policy Manager at IFOAM EU, indicated that the organic movement supports the development of GMO-free labelling in the conventional sector, but the organic GMO-free standard defined by the EU Regulation on organic production should serve as a reference point in order to ensure mutual support and collaboration. He also stressed that the safest and quickest way to achieve a common European approach on this topic – especially in a context of trade negotiations with the US on TTIP – was strengthened cooperation on standards among Member States, rather than EU harmonization and re-opening of the EU legislation on mandatory labelling of GMOs.

The conference concluded with the adoption of the Vienna Declaration, a call for a common European approach on GMO-free labelling.

CARE ABOUT THIS ISSUE?
Support us and donate now!

Making Europe More Organic
4 MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC – SUPPORT IFOAM EU

IFOAM EU KEY SUPPORTERS 2016

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.

WORKING IN THE ORGANIC SECTOR? COMMITTED TO MAKE EUROPE MORE ORGANIC?

DONATE NOW!

Protect your interests and help us make Europe more organic by:

• Ensuring that EU regulations match the reality of organic producers
• Ensuring that EU and national legislation do not discriminate against organic and traditional seed production
• Fighting the expansion of GMO use in Europe and protecting organic farmers and producers from contamination

You can help MAKE EUROPE MORE ORGANIC

Join our current partners and make your donation!
5 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

6–7 June  
IFOAM EU Processor meeting (internal meeting)  
Bologna, Italy

9–10 June  
Sustainable Food Summit  
Amsterdam, the Netherlands

9–10 June  
IFOAM EU farmers meeting  
Bulgaria
If you are interested in participating please contact Stephen Meredith

28–29 September  
La terre est notre métier  
Retiers, France

29 September  
Innovative Farmers Day  
Sheepdrove Organic Farm, United Kingdom

16–17 November  
Nordic Organic Food Fair  
MalmöMassan, Sweden

24–25 November  
4th Organic Processing Conference  
Seville, Spain


IFOAM EU is currently hiring a policy coordinator to join our team in Brussels. S/he will coordinate the policy activities of IFOAM EU in the environment and agriculture fields, with a focus on GMOs, new genetic engineering techniques, patents on life, and TTIP. Read the full job description

To apply, complete the application form and submit it by email to info@ifoam-eu.org by Sunday, 29 May 2016. Only applications using the form will be considered.