Newsletter No 52, February 2012
International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements EU Group - IFOAM EU Group
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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the latest IFOAM EU Group Newsletter, which gives an overview of our ongoing work with updates on regulation, policy and research. BioFach, the largest global organic trade fair provided a great opportunity to meet the organic world and participate in an incredible programme of conferences and workshops. IFOAM EU Group and IFOAM World hosted and participated in many events, providing an opportunity to show some of the strategic work we do.

EU Agriculture and Rural Development Commissioner Dacian Cioloş attended BioFach and signed the historic organic equivalency agreement between the EU and the US, which will simplify transatlantic trade in organic products. The Commissioner visited the Romanian trade stands and experienced the impressive display of organic products from around the world. He also took time out to meet with representatives from the IFOAM EU Group to discuss the priorities for policy and regulation to enable the further progress of organic food and farming in Europe.

It is great to see firsthand the genuine interest that Commissioner Cioloş has in organic food and farming. Mr. Cioloş has practical organic farming experience and recognises the importance of the trust that organic farming and farmers have won amongst Europeans. The fact that organic is included in the CAP proposals (as a ‘greening’ measure in Pillar 1, and in the proposals for rural development in Pillar 2) is a landmark for us all. We expressed our core concerns and recommendations and that together we must continue to work for the best possible outcomes.

During our meeting we discussed the consultation and evaluation of the EU Organic Regulation that is planned for this year, we emphasised to Commissioner Cioloş that the IFOAM EU Group is keen to play an active role in this process and that a period of stability with the current regulation is essential for organic farmers and all those in the organic supply chain. With this in mind, we look forward to a resolution regarding the poultry and greenhouse standards now that the winemaking rules have been successfully finalised.

One further issue we discussed is the scope for flexibility, which could enable the regulation to be implemented in a way that is consistent with the development of the organic food and farming sector in all its diversity throughout Europe. We briefly outlined our proposals and Commissioner Cioloş acknowledged the importance of the issue. Please give us your feedback.

I hope that you find this newsletter informative. It should provide you an opportunity to establish where your priorities lie and help you see how we can work together in Europe as part of the global IFOAM family.

Christopher Stopes

Please give us your feedback.
High level speakers have confirmed their place at the 6th European Organic Congress. Jerzy Bogdan Plewa, the newly appointed Deputy Director General of DG Agriculture, will review the European Commission’s CAP proposals towards 2020 during the high level policy makers panel on April 17th. Joining the panel will also be Morten Lautrup-Larsen, the EU-advisor from the Danish Ministry for food, agriculture and fisheries, who will discuss the Danish EU Presidency’s goals for the new CAP.

The Congress will also largely focus on the development and future advancements in European organic regulation, primarily on the state of play three years after the implementation. Many events of the past year have illustrated the necessity of continued efforts in ensuring credible and sustainable organic regulations. These topics will be covered during the expert panel on organic regulation on April 17th and followed up with two workshop sessions.

Early bird registration has been extended to 10 March 2012. Special rates for students and participants from new member states have also been extended until 10 March. Take advantage of this offer now while it lasts!

Denmark boasts one of the highest consumer expenditure rates on organic foods in the world. From supermarkets, farmers markets and specialty stores, to schools and canteens, the Danish hold a tradition of organic foods and products. The 6th European Organic Congress excursion on the 16th of April will take you into the heart of the Danish organic food chain and reveal why this seemingly small country is at the forefront of the European organic consumer industry.

The programme for the 6th European Organic Congress excursion has been finalised and registration is now open! Take this opportunity to catch a glimpse of the various actors within the Danish organic sector - as well as sample some of their delicious products!

Click here for more information on the excursion.
1. News/ Updates of IFOAM EU Working Fields

1.1 Organic Regulation

**Political Hot Spot**

IFOAM EU Group meets Commissioner Cioloş & discusses the evaluation of regulations

A delegation of IFOAM EU Group met with EU Agriculture Commissioner Dacian Cioloş during BioFach on February 15. The main topics discussed were the planned review of the organic regulation in 2012/2013, the CAP reform and the update of the Commission’s organic action plan from 2004. The Commissioner outlined that he wants to ensure that organic food and farming remains credible in the future and therefore he wishes to initiate a process to improve the regulations. The Commissioner desires to initially discuss with stakeholders but to also have concrete suggestions ready by 2013. The basis for the consultation of the organic sector will be the report to the Council that will be published in April and will include some questions, e.g. on GMOs, controls, simplification, and imports. The kick-off of the consultation will be an extended advisory group on organic farming taking place on June 14 in Brussels. An online consultation, public or semi-public, is also likely.

IFOAM EU Group positively acknowledged that the European Commission is not aiming at a complete revision of the regulation but rather at an evaluation. Further, the IFOAM EU delegation suggested to update the current EU organic action plan to relate to the new financial period 2014-2020 including rural development programmes and research framework programme.

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**New EU rules on organic wine approved**

On February 8th 2012, new EU rules for organic wine were approved by the Standing Committee on Organic Farming (SCOF) and will be published in the Official Journal by the beginning of March. The new regulations will apply from the 2012 harvest and will allow organic wine growers to label their wines "organic" instead of "made from organic grapes". Although the approved rules were preceded by a very long developing process and reflect a compromised position, all stakeholders are predominantly happy that the rules are finally in place. This was also the key message of a seminar on the new rules for organic wine during BioFach. Jean-François Hulot, Head of the Organic Farming Unit from the European Commission and experts from IFOAM EU Group and the European Organic Winemaking Carta initiative appreciate that the organic wine processing rules were finally established. IFOAM EU Group president Christopher Stopes added that ‘the new rules are the best political compromise possible and these rules will enhance consumers’ trust, simplify certifiers’ work and increase the competitive position of European organic wine in the global market’. It has been recognised that these new rules are just the beginning and the implementation of the regulation has to be closely monitored. The organic sector will continue to discuss eventual shortcomings and possible improvements to the regulations.

EU Group president Christopher Stopes added that ‘the new rules are the best political compromise possible and these rules will enhance consumers’ trust, simplify certifiers’ work and increase the competitive position of European organic wine in the global market’. It has been recognised that these new rules are just the beginning and the implementation of the regulation has to be closely monitored. The organic sector will continue to discuss eventual shortcomings and possible improvements to the regulations.

Further information on this issue, including IFOAM EU and EU Commission press releases, the approved implementing rules and a clear table on the rules for SO₂ reduction in organic wine can be found on the IFOAM EU Group webpage.
1.1 Organic Regulation

**Regulation seminars at BioFach 2012**

IFOAM EU Group organised a series of regulation seminars at BioFach 2012. The seminar on the EU regulation on organic food and farming supplied the latest updates on the EU organic regulation and its implementing rules on certification, imports, wine and feed. Jean-François Hulot, Head of the Organic Farming Unit of DG Agriculture, provided the Commission’s input to the process. Furthermore, IFOAM EU positions on poultry and greenhouse were presented and future work on, for example, the revision of the organic regulation and risk-based inspections, were identified.

During the session on EU rules for organic animal production, Otto Schmid (IFOAM EU vice president research) outlined the actual rules and state of discussion in the SCOF and in IFOAM EU Group on organic feed and feed self-sufficiency. Additionally, three organisations – Soil Association, ICROFS and FiBL – presented their studies on animal welfare.

The organic processing and trade seminar underlined once more the importance of pesticide residue handling as a major challenge for the organic sector with presentations from BNN and IFOAM EU Group on their approach. Ronald van Marlen from the Dutch organic processing company Ariza, called for harmonisation and praised the IFOAM EU Group’s “Guidelines for Pesticide Residue Contamination for International Trade in Organic” as a starting point in achieving this. Further, Philip vanden Abeele, quality manager of the Belgian organic processor and residue handling pioneer Lima outlined the company’s approach and policy in handling pesticide residues and the main challenges they face.

All presentations of the regulation seminars can be found on the [IFOAM EU Group website](http://www.ifoam.eu).

**IFOAM EU Group updates its paper on the flexibility of the Organic Regulation**

IFOAM EU Group set up a working group in 2010 to discuss the possibility of making more use of Article 22 of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007. That group produced a paper arguing that increased use of the flexibility, possibly with the allowance of higher national organic standards, would help the organic sector in Europe to develop and increase the market for organic products. This paper has now been adopted by the IFOAM EU Group as policy, with the approved version of the paper being both sent to the Commission and included in our lobbying activities. This is an appropriate time for this to be considered as the COM is in the process of producing its report to Council and Parliament on the first years of the implementation of the Organic Regulations. That report should highlight differences in speed of development of the organic sector in different member states. It is IFOAM EU Group’s view that flexibility will be required to reduce those differences while allowing the sector to develop.

The paper that has been sent to the Commission can be viewed on the [IFOAM EU Group website](http://www.ifoam.eu).
Organic processing conference in Poland: Report now available

The IFOAM EU Group conference “Organic food processing - improving quality and environmental performance” on 14th October 2011 in Łódź, Poland, attracted a broad range of speakers and participants, including organic processors, certifiers, importers and academics. The conference managed to identify the need for future work on some very definite topics in organic processing, such as organic import, pesticide residue handling, and the use of additives in organic processing. Meanwhile, organic sector stakeholders acknowledged that they should further work on strategies to develop the ecological performance in the processing and distribution area to encounter the proliferation of single issue labels.

The report as well as other conference material can be found on the conference webpage. IFOAM EU Group’s second Organic Processing Conference will take place in autumn in Germany. More information about this event will be available in the near future.

Organic poultry and greenhouse production

IFOAM EU has recently published new position papers on organic poultry and greenhouses, both issues are on the near future agenda of the European Commission for revision of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008. The positions have been discussed during the last two years by IFOAM EU Group experts at several meetings. The conclusions were voted on at the board meeting in November 2011 in Brussels, allowing the publishing of the new IFOAM EU position on greenhouses and an update to the IFOAM EU position on poultry from July 2010. The IFOAM EU positions on this topics where also presented at BioFach 2012 by IFOAM EU Group Dutch Board member Marian Blom.

Some outstanding issues will be discussed further by IFOAM EU experts and voted on by the IFOAM EU Board. Further positions are expected in April, after the IFOAM EU Board meeting in Denmark. The IFOAM EU Group therefore took the COM intention into account to develop more detailed rules for these two areas in 2012. Obvious indicators are that the EGTOP (Expert Group for Technical advice on Organic Production) sub-group on poultry will meet in the end of February with a final report by June 2012. SCOF (Standing Committee on Organic Farming) will begin an exchange on poultry production and rearing at one of the upcoming meetings (29-30 June). The EGTOP will probably also begin working on the greenhouse issue in autumn 2012.
1.1 Organic Regulation

Organic Feed Regulation under revision

The European Commission has published a draft on implementing rules of organic feed in order to react to the reality that shows a gap between production and demand of protein crops and other emerging issues related to organic feed such as ingredients and labelling.

New proposals on the percentage of feed from one’s own holdings have also been prepared, which should be at least 60% for herbivores and at least 20 % in case of pigs and poultry. Regarding the lack of protein crops, the maximum percentage of non-organic protein feed shall continue to be limited to 5% per period of 12 month for 2012, 2013 and 2014. Also the use of non-organic pellets is prolonged from 31th December 2011 until 31th December 2014 in the proposal.

Additionally, the proposal includes changes to a modified technical specification of rosemary extract, clarifying that for organic production it can be used only if derived from organic production. Currently the proposal is under TBT consultation until March 25 for comments from WTO partners. It is foreseen that SCOF is going to vote about the proposal at its next meeting on March 29-30.

For the IFOAM EU position please refer to IFOAM EU letters: IFOAM EU Group letter on organic feed of September 27, 2011 and IFOAM EU Group letter on organic feed of October 20, 2011.

New import agreement between US and EU

The organic market has made another great step towards its unification. On 15 February 2012 formal letters to launch a new import agreement between the United States and the European Union were signed. The signing has been a ceremonial act and one of the highlights at BioFach 2012. The EU Regulation adding USA to the list of third countries was published the same day.

According to the new agreement, all products meeting the terms of partnership and being controlled and supervised by the national control bodies and authorities, either produced or processed in the US or EU can be traded and labelled as certified organic produce. After two years of negotiations to prove equivalence of both standards, in the end, few exclusions were added to the general recognition of standards on both sides. These exclusions are mainly aquatic animals, which do not fall under the agreement and the use of antibiotics in animal production, at which the US standard is stricter. Further clarification on trade of organic wine between US and EU can be expected after the rules for organic wine processing are published.

More information available at official websites of EU and USDA.
1.2 Organic Policy

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

IFOAM EU CAP seminar at BioFach

The ongoing CAP reform and the importance of organic farming for a sustainable reorientation of the CAP were in the spotlight in this workshop session at BioFach 2012 hosted by the IFOAM EU Group. With speakers from the European Commission, European Parliament and representatives of the organic sector from different countries, the workshop provided participants with an update on the state of play of the CAP reform and the demands of the organic sector.

Jean-François Hulot of the European Commission explained the legislative proposals stating that organic farming’s automatic qualification for the 30 per cent greening payment was a sign of recognition for its services, and that organic agriculture was no longer diluted in agri-environmental measures, but given mention in article 30.

Nic Lampkin of the Organic Research Centre spoke of the dilemma of organic farmers as providers of public goods that benefit the whole of society and that these should therefore not be paid for by organic consumers alone. Therefore, public support should encourage organic farming in line with market demand and synergies between different policies to reach this goal must be explored.

Martin Häusling, MEP and agricultural coordinator for the Greens/EFA, explained his role as shadow rapporteur on the CAP reform proposals and outlined his party’s standpoint on a number of issues, such as their support for ecological focus areas and crop rotation, and the need for the cultivation of more legumes on European soil. He called on NGOs to reinforce their message towards the institutions for a green reform.

Anamarija Slabe of the Institute for Sustainable Development presented the problem of organic production in Slovenia, with a high local demand for organic products but an insufficient production side to satisfy this demand. The CAP should support the marketing of regional organic products; additionally, it should encourage the establishment of farmer cooperatives, support producer groups, reduce price gaps and provide knowledge transfer.

Thomas Fertl closed the round of presentations by presenting IFOAM EU’s demands for a CAP reform as outlined in its new position paper from January 2012 in response to the Commission proposals, core elements being a shift of money to more focused measures, the inclusion of organic agriculture in several measures and support for a holistic approach to agriculture and management of natural resources.
1.2 Organic Policy

GMOs

IFOAM EU GMO workshop at BioFach

The IFOAM EU BioFach workshop on 16th February 2012 titled “GMOs and the organic market – threats, policies and strategies” aimed at demonstrating the effects of GMOs on organic agriculture and the importance of clear regulations in the event of contamination. Four speakers from various sectors illuminated the problems of GMO-contamination from the seed producers’, beekeepers’ and wholesalers’ perspective.

Gebhard Rossmanith of Bingenheimer Saatgut explained the threats of GMO-contamination from a seed producer’s perspective, having an impact on field cultivation, in processing and transport, and the potential for mistrust. He also reiterated the need to maintain the zero-tolerance of GMOs in seed.

Walter Haefeker of the Beekeepers Association demonstrated the value of GM-free agriculture from a beekeepers’ perspective. As bees do not respect field margins, he reminded that also GMOs cultivated for non-food purposes would have an impact on beekeeping and honey and would thereby pose a serious threat to the existence of GM-free and organic apiculture in an area. He underlined that the freedom of choice for GMO-free honey and food must be ensured through appropriate policies.

Dorota Metera of Bioekspert Ltd., highlighted the problem from the organic regulation perspective, where GMOs are explicitly banned, and contamination would result in extra costs or lower profit margins, along with a loss of credibility. The extent of GMO-cultivation in Poland is unclear due to the possibilities of Polish farmers to gain GM-seeds from Monsanto in the Czech Republic, which poses a hidden risk to GMO free producers.

The final presentation was given by Arjon Kalter of Tradin Organic, a Dutch wholesaler for organic produce. He pointed out that tests and analyses to ensure products are free of GMOs are necessary, but costly and time-consuming, and criticised that the costs for these tests are now to be carried by the GMO free food sector.

Organic dwarfs biotech in Europe

On the occasion of International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications’ annual biotech report, designed to document GMO’s ‘so-called’ rampant success across the world, Friends of the Earth Europe, Greenpeace, and Food and Water Europe remind us of the sobering statistics that GMOs have failed to gain any foothold in Europe and are equally losing ground in India and China.

France unveils GMO-free label

A voluntary government-regulated GMO-free label will be sworn in on the 1st of July 2012, allowing companies to legally declare their goods GM-free. For an English-language press article, see here; the official government press release can be found here (in French).
GMOs

Risk assessment flaws in proposed revisions for GMO authorisations

Officials from the European Commission presented their proposed revisions to the legal framework for GMO authorisations for food and feed at an advisory group meeting attended by the IFOAM EU Group on the 14 February. The latest draft would see the introduction of comparative risk assessment, based on the concept of substantial equivalence. Under such assessments the specific trait introduced would be the only difference identified between the GMO and its conventional counterpart, making it impossible to determine unintended changes to the organism. It is expected the regulation will be finalised and ratified by the summer. MEPs from across the Parliament’s political groups have also written a letter in January to the Commission, Member States and the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health outlining their reservations.

Environmental Action Programme

Interactive event on the 7th Environmental Action Programme

The IFOAM EU Group attended an interactive workshop organised by the Danish Presidency on 08th February 2012 in Brussels on the designing of the 7th Environmental Action Programme (EAP), the new overall strategy for the EU in terms of environmental protection. Several focus group discussions were held on participants’ views of the current roadmap on resource efficiency, how the current milestones should be improved, and what other aspects should feature in the new EAP. The IFOAM EU Group naturally lobbied for the inclusion of organic and agro-ecological farming practices as recommendation for a sustainable food production, and that the urban environment be enriched by urban gardening. The results of the workshop can be found here.

Polish organics

The Polish organic market grew by 25 per cent last year, according to a new marketing report, and is expecting a 20 per cent growth for 2012. Currently, the organic market share in Poland is only 0.3 per cent. Read more here (in Polish).

Bee decline connected to pesticides

Bee population decline has once again been linked to neonicotinoids, in particular neonicotinoids, in this new US study. The manufacturer of the insecticide, Bayer, refutes the claims.

1.2 Organic Policy

Soil & Biodiversity

Worrying Commission report on soil

A new report on the state of soils and an update on the implementation of the Soil Thematic Strategy were published by the European Commission recently depicting the urgent need to impede the further degradation of EU soils. The IFOAM EU Group responded with a press release, calling for the implementation of an EU Soil Directive and the need to take the results presented into consideration in the ongoing CAP reform.

Genetic resources in agriculture

A new and comprehensive one-stop website has been launched by the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to bundle meeting documents, publications, projects, news, videos, funding information and technical support tools on plant genetic resources for agriculture. Biodiversity International has meanwhile published a manual on agrobiodiversity management for a healthy, nutritious and diverse diet.

Beekeeping conference

An organic beekeeping conference, the second of its kind, will be held in San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Mexico, from 19th to 25th March 2012.

The taste of organic

Sensory perceptions of organic and conventional products were analysed in six European countries among light and heavy consumers of organic products in determining whether organic actually tastes different. The results are now out and can be viewed in this user-friendly database.

Conflicts on the menu

A new report released by Corporate Observatory Europe and Earth Open Source once again highlights the intrigues at EFSA. The supposed-to-be independent scientific body for food safety in the EU uses only industry reports as basis for their evaluations and several members of staff have strong industry ties.
IFOAM EU welcomes the new European Innovation Partnership on Agriculture

IFOAM EU has broadly welcomed the communication on the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability, published by the European Commission on the 29 February. EIPs seek to bring research and innovation closer together by connecting scientific and farming communities from across member states and sectors to increase the uptake of innovation. Under the proposal the Commission seeks to drive competitiveness and sustainability in agriculture by focusing on resource efficient farming and soil functionality.

In a recent press release, IFOAM EU outlined the importance of the new initiative as a means to develop the potential for knowledge transfer between farmers, researchers and other stakeholders. IFOAM EU also stressed how crucial it is that truly sustainable, comprehensive approaches towards innovation are targeted within the EIP.

TP Organics at BioFach

The presentations of the TP Organics workshop on "Organic food and farming in the post 2013 EU Research programme" at BioFach 2012 are now available.

Eduardo Cuoco - TP Organics: The political process towards Horizon 2020

Otto Schmid - IFOAM EU Group: TP Organics comments and proposal for Horizon 2020

Susanne Padel - The Organic Research Centre: Knowledge management in Horizon 2020

Urs Niggli – Fibl: Organic research and innovation in worldwide policy

Ecofruit – 15th Conference on Organic Fruit Growing

IFOAM EU Group has once again been the patron of the eco fruit conference that took place in Hohenheim from February 20-22. Alexander Gerber participated in the conference on behalf of IFOAM EU. All information on the conference can be found on http://www.ecofruit.net/
**European Innovation Partnership on Water - Consultation**

TP Organics participated in the 2nd Stakeholder Consultation on EIP on Water on the 1st February 2012. Under the Innovation Union flagship initiative of the EU, European Commission DG Environment, in close cooperation with DG Research and Innovation and other DG's, is developing a proposal for candidate European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on water. The objective is to develop innovative solutions for water related challenges and, through boosting innovation, create a global leadership position for European water technology and services. In the series of stakeholder consultations (More info on the previous events), this was the second wide stakeholder consultation to further develop the EIP on Water. In April the Commission will present the Communication on water IP based on these stakeholders consultations, and this will be adopted as soon as it will be approved by Council and EP (possibly during summer).

Unfortunately, during the consultation, the organic sector was only marginally represented and did not express its position. Thus, TP Organics wants to fill this gap by writing a position letter on the topic which, asking the contribution of different stakeholders and experts of the field, can represent the voice of the organic sector within this area. The letter will be finalised by the end of March.

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**European Research Area: Conference in Brussels**

TP Organics participated at the ERA Conference: ‘Fostering Efficiency, Excellence and Growth’ on January 30 in Brussels. The key points of the conference focused on the five ERA initiatives launched in 2008: Mobility of researchers, Joint programming, Research Infrastructures, Sharing Knowledge and International Cooperation. The independence of science has also been a central topic as well as the importance of having a strong political commitment at national and EU level to improve research infrastructures mainly at EU level. “It is necessary to understand that on a global level only the EU as a whole, and not a single member state, can compete with countries such as India or China that are very strong in Innovation and Technologies”, stated the R&I Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn. However, a bottom up mechanism with inputs coming from the Member States was also seen as vital for the growth of the research sector. Indeed, ERA should not imply a centralisation of research in Europe. There is a need of collaboration between the greatest minds of all the countries to concretely be able to solve the challenges of the world. The only one criterion that should lead and guide ERA actions was announced as scientific excellence.

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**Update from TP Organics: Horizon 2020**

During the last months TP Organics has been working on the analysis of the first draft proposal of the EU Framework Programme Horizon 2020 in order to create a briefing document which will express our position and concern on it. The main focus of TP Organics is on the document sections relating to agriculture and food and for our analysis we refer to the TP Organics Vision Research Agenda, Strategic Research Agenda and Implementation Action Plan, in which concrete proposals on how to address food agricultural challenges in the next EU Research Framework Programme were made.

Horizon 2020 will be the major European source of research and innovation funding and will be very important in shaping the ground for future agricultural research. This could mean that there may be more opportunities to develop organic food and farming research projects building on the principles of agro-ecology. For this reason discussions on the legislative proposals in 2012 will be very important for establishing priorities and TP Organics wants to be present at all the steps of the decision process. With the same goal, in the next weeks TP Organics will meet various rapporteurs of the ITRE (Industry, Research and Energy), AGRI and ENVI Committees in order to explain our position regarding Horizon 2020.
2. IFOAM EU Group Internal Updates

Farewell to policy assistant Rishi Kukreja
The IFOAM EU Group said farewell to Rishi Kukreja who has supported the office as a temporary policy assistant for a period of 5 months. Familiar with the topics of the policy working area due to his traineeship with IFOAM EU in 2010, Rishi was mainly working on resource efficiency in food and farming, climate change, soil, and biodiversity. His dedication to the tasks at hand, his thoroughness and his ability to present IFOAM EU positions in clear writing have been especially valued. We wish him all the best for his future path!

IFOAM EU Group is accepting applications for trainees in various working fields

The IFOAM EU Group is looking for several trainees to join our dynamic Brussels office. The lengths of the traineeships are 6 months and involve working in the areas of organic regulation, policy, research and communications.

Take your chance for an interesting and qualifying experience in the political scene in Brussels!

Please use the application form (found on our website) to apply for the trainee position and return the filled-in form to info@ifoam-eu.org

Visit the IFOAM EU Group website for more information!

The application deadline for this traineeship is 15th March 2012 (Communication Trainee) and 18th March 2012 (other working areas).
2.1 Sponsorship

Support IFOAM EU Group!

Next to membership fees, **sponsoring** is the only other financial input that can guarantee the carrying out of independent advocacy work and a proper presentation of the organic movement in Brussels.

To gain a wide number of sponsors, the IFOAM EU Group offers a variety of sponsorship options – there is at least one that fits to your needs.

All sponsor possibilities are summarised in a sponsor flyer, available in **English**, **German**, **Italian**, **Spanish**, **French** and **Polish** languages.

IFOAM EU Group will be pleased to jointly develop with you the best sponsoring option with you. Get in contact with us for the fine-tuning of your sponsor ideas:

**Lena.Wietheger@ifoam-eu.org**
Tel: +32 2 808 79 91

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Key Sponsor Presentation

**IFOAM EU key sponsors 2012: ARIZA, CAAE and ICEA/FECD**

ARIZA, CAAE and ICEA/FECD show their support for the work of IFOAM EU by a financial cooperation with IFOAM EU throughout the year 2012. Their money will be used to co-finance IFOAM EU events, projects and publications and is a highly valued contribution to our work.

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IFOAM EU Sponsorship in Action!

5th European Organic Congress

Processessing Conference
3. Events

**CAP Event Frankfurt, Germany**
Pre-event on March 8: Speech by Professor Johan Swinnen ‘The right price of food’
Registration by February 17 to ifls-office@ifls.de
In German and English
Organised by www.ifls.de

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**Let's Liberate Diversity - Scotland 2012**
Celebrating crofter seeds & breeds, 9th to 11th March 2012.
[Click here for more information](#)

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**Pesticide Action Week**
The 7th Pesticide Action Week will take place from March 20-30 2012 with the aim of raising awareness of health and environmental risks of synthetic pesticides, highlighting alternative solutions, and building an anti-pesticide movement. Be part of the global movement by organising your own event, from small, low-budget to big and extravagant, and [registering it here](#).

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**Conference on Organic Sector Development in Central/Eastern European and Central Asia**
4th International Conference on the Organic Sector Development in Central/Eastern European and Central Asian countries, Izmir, Turkey. 13th to 14th April 2012. The call for papers is still open until 10th February 2012.
[Click here for more information](#)

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**Biostyl - Prague**
Biostyl, the trade fair for organic products, healthy nutrition and natural cosmetics in Eastern Europe will enter its 7th year from 20th to 22nd April 2012 in Prague-Holesovice.

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**12th Congress of the European Society for Agronomy**
The Congress will take place on 20-24 August in Helsinki, Finland. The call for proposals is still open. Visit the [website for more information](#).

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**7th Organic Marketing Forum 2012**
IFOAM EU Group is a patron of the upcoming 7th Organic Marketing Forum 2012. The OMF will take place on the 7th -9th of May in Warsaw. The conference is an excellent place for business development, initial business contact and knowledge transfer. There will be pre-conference-workshops and excursions to organic farmers, processors and traders in the region outside of Warsaw.

[Organic Marketing Forum](#)

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### 3.1 Calendar of events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 March 2012</td>
<td>CAP and Food Sovereignty, “More Farmers, Better Food”</td>
<td>Committee of the Regions, Brussels</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-11 March 2012</td>
<td>Let's Liberate Diversity</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-30 March 2012</td>
<td>Pesticide Action Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-2 April 2012</td>
<td>Natural and Organic Products Europe 2012</td>
<td>London, UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>13-14 April 2012</td>
<td>4th International Conference on Organic Sector Development in Central/Eastern European &amp; Central Asian countries</td>
<td>Izmir, Turkey</td>
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<tr>
<td>17-18 April 2012</td>
<td>6th European Organic Congress</td>
<td>Copenhagen, Denmark</td>
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<td>20-22 April 2012</td>
<td>Biostyl</td>
<td>Prague-Holesovice</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-9 May 2012</td>
<td>7th Organic Marketing Forum 2012</td>
<td>Warsaw, Poland</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-24 August 2012</td>
<td>12th Congress of the European Society for Agronomy</td>
<td>Helsinki, Finland</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-14 September 2012</td>
<td>2nd IFOAM Animal Husbandry Conference</td>
<td>Hamburg, Germany</td>
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This newsletter exists to inform IFOAM members about the work of the IFOAM EU Group and its liaison and coordination office in Brussels. The IFOAM EU Group 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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EU Agriculture Commissioner Dacian Cioloș and Kathleen Merrigan, Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, enjoy the festivities at the India booth during BioFach 2012. Photo: EU Commission website

The IFOAM EU Group acknowledges the financial support of the European Community, DG Environment throughout the year 2011. The sole responsibility lies with the IFOAM EU Group, and the Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided by IFOAM EU Group.

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