

### **7th EU Environmental Action Program Policy makers must bring green economy to the mainstream**

**Brussels, 30/11/2012** – IFOAM EU (1) welcomes the Commission's proposal for a new *7th EU Environmental Action Program* called "Living well, within the limits of our planet" (2). IFOAM EU calls on policy makers to use the paper as a guideline to make the EU budget greener and cleaner in the current negotiations on the EU financial framework MFF 2014-2020.

"The 7th EAP rightly identifies key environmental challenges and states that we need to foster more sustainable patterns of consumption and production. But to become more than a wish list, the programme must be accompanied by ambitious policy proposals supported by sufficient funding to achieve its goals. Member States and the EU Parliament must commit now, in the **multiannual financial EU framework 2014-2020**, to a real **green economy**," comments Christopher Stopes, IFOAM EU President. "Our future food security and economic prosperity rely on sustainable use of resources. The international organic movements are determined to push the sustainability agenda forward (3), but incentives are needed to promote sustainable food and farming on a broad scale: The European Common Agricultural Policy **CAP 2020** (4,5) needs a **comprehensive greening** in both pillars, with organic farming (6) as a leading measure."

"Instead of using budget pressure as an excuse to water down the greening of **CAP 2020**, farm ministers should adopt a solid greening package in the first pillar and a strong budget for organic farming and environmental targets in the second pillar as a means to invest in future economic prosperity and employment in rural areas, environmental services and food security. Only a CAP that delivers these public goods will find support from tax payers," adds Antje Koelling, IFOAM EU Group Policy manager. "Soil erosion is an example of a major concern, our future food security is under threat, the EAP rightly emphasises that soil organic matter levels must increase. To tackle this challenge, ministers should give up their blockade now and finally agree on a binding legal framework to evaluate soil status and ensure protection for the future of our soils (7)."

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