

EU leaders need to put environmental leadership into effect

Council Conclusions on 7th EAP must be followed by ambitious implementation

Brussels, 11 June 2012 – Today the EU-27 environmental ministers have adopted their recommendations on the 7th Environmental Action Programmeⁱ.

"We welcome that Environmental Ministers are committed to a 7th Environmental Action Programme (EAP), as the EAP can serve as driving force for European Environmental Policy", said Marco Schlüter, Director of the IFOAM EU Groupⁱⁱ. "However in order to make EU environmental leadership happen, and to ensure we meet our international obligations including our commitments in the Rio+20 process this decision must be followed by concrete action. It is time for Member States to deliver on their environmental ambitions in all key policy areas. This means, for example, finally adapting the framework Directive for the protection of soils and supporting real greening of the Common Agricultural Policy to lift the environmental delivery of EU food and farming and deliver long-term sustainability for the EU and all its citizensⁱⁱⁱ."

"The EAP in particular offers a way to ensure that different policy instruments are working together, rather than against each other, by coordinating different environmental policy goals in a holistic way. For the food and farming sector, implementing an holistic approach towards sustainability means the potential that organic farming offers to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation in agriculture^{iv} and to safeguard biodiversity^v must be ambitiously harnessed by policymakers", highlights Antje Kölling, Policy Manager of the IFOAM EU Group. "The important sustainability principles expressed in the Conclusions now need to be followed by an ambitious agenda, wherein the new EAP efficiently addresses shortfalls identified in the 6th EAP final assessment^{vi} and finally halts the loss of biodiversity and delivers sustainable resource management."

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ⁱ http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/envir/130788.pdf

ⁱⁱ IFOAM EU Group The IFOAM EU Group is the European working level within the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements. It brings together more than 250 organisations, associations and enterprises from all EU-27, EFTA and candidate countries. IFOAM's goal is the worldwide adoption of ecologically, socially and economically sound systems that are based on the principles of Organic Agriculture.

ⁱⁱⁱ IFOAM EU Group calls for an ambitious greening of the CAP, see: <http://www.ifoam-eu.org/workareas/policy/php/CAP.php>

^{iv} The contribution of Organic agriculture to climate change mitigation, IFOAM EU Group, http://www.ifoam.org/growing_organic/1_arguments_for_oa/environmental_benefits/pdfs/IFOAM-CC-Mitigation-Web.pdf

^v Organic food and farming, A system to meet the sustainability challenge, IFOAM EU Group, http://www.ifoam.org/about_ifoam/around_world/eu_group-new/workareas/policy/pdf/IFOAMEU_dossier_organic_farming_system_approach.pdf

^{vi} The final assessment on the 6th EAP by the Commission can be found here:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0531:FIN:EN:PDF>



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