



Working for organic farming in Europe

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International Federation of
Organic Agriculture Movements –
EU Regional Group

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Letter on the of the DRAFT REPORT on the provision of food information to consumers (COM(2008)0040 – C6-0052/2008 – 2008/0028(COD)).

Dear Members of European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety,

The IFOAM EU Group is concerned about healthy food, sustainable practices for food production and sustainability of the whole food chain. Therefore the organic sector supports more transparency in food production to enable consumers to make evidence-based choices to contribute to well being and health. Food labelling has to be clear, confusing labelling must be avoided. Organic farming has pioneered higher standards for comprehensively sustainable farming, animal welfare and the careful use of natural resources. It delivers high quality food, other products and environmental services. It is the only label with a European wide control and certification system in place; consumers trust the organic label.

Consumers do not only care about the nutritional content of food, but are concerned also about the way food is produced. Environmental, social and animal welfare aspects can be decisive for consumer's choice. Therefore it must be transparently clear to consumers how food is produced. For example, if GMO derived material was used in food production or processing this must be clear. Advertising claims with weak benefits must be avoided. For example, only products produced to animal welfare standards that are significantly above legally binding standards deserve a mention of the animal welfare attributes on the label.

Traffic light and labelling of origin and provenance

The IFOAM EU Group is against mandatory EU and national traffic light labelling as this very narrow and specific nutritional information can mislead consumers about overall food quality. Consumers will fail to understand this information particularly in the light of other quality attributes (for example designation of origin, fresh, local, less processed, organic). It will not contribute much to the increase of consumer awareness, to the improvement of nutritional behaviour, diet or life style of European citizens. Nor will it address the challenge of a poor diet and the fight against obesity. It is important that we guard against the misuse of traffic light labelling by the food industry as marketing tool promoting food on the basis of just a few nutritional values. We propose that a program should be developed and adequately resourced to provide consumer information and "nutrition education" in kindergartens, schools and other facilities for children and teens using a whole school food education approach.

The IFOAM EU Group supports the development of labelling indicating place of origin and provenance of food. This should be mandatory for all products, and should particularly include detailed information about the origin of meat products. The indication must be informative and must provide useful

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information for consumers, based on realistic concepts for indicating regional or local values. The IFOAM EU Group is concerned about the consistency of this labelling with the mandatory labelling of origin of the raw materials imposed for organic food by the Regulation (EC) 834/2007.

The IFOAM EU Group recommendations in ANNEX 1. *Table of recommendation for voting with comments to the proposed amendments to the DRAFT REPORT on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the provision of food information to consumers (COM(2008)0040 – C6-0052/2008 – 2008/0028(COD))*

Animal welfare and animal products labelling

The IFOAM EU Group welcomes the discussions on animal welfare and strongly supports higher animal welfare standards. The labelling of products that were produced to animal welfare standards significantly above the legal standard can be one of the measures to improve conditions for farm and wild animals in the EU. Parallel to the discussion around the Commission's report on Options for animal welfare labelling and the establishment of a European Network of Reference Centres for the protection and welfare of animals [REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION, Options for animal welfare labelling and the establishment of a European Network of Reference Centres for the protection and welfare of animals COM(2009) 584 final]. All possible should be done to improve animal welfare in the EU.

Food labelling, and the provision information to consumers to allow aware choices and purchases is one of the main tools for further improvement in the conditions in which animals are kept for food production.

Thus, the IFOAM EU Group welcomes and **strongly supports amendments** for the DRAFT REPORT on the provision of food information to consumers related to animal products' labelling.

- **Amendment 361 (see text below)**, which introduces labelling of animal products fed with feed containing GMO materials by requiring use of the words **'from animals fed with genetically modified feedingstuffs'**. The production of GMO plants comes along with socio-economic and environmental problems. To guarantee the freedom of choice, consumers should be able to distinguish also in animal products if GMOs were used for their production or not.

- **Amendment 362 (see text below)**, which widens the labelling of the production/rearing system for processed products **containing eggs and for egg products**, by requiring the use of the terms referred to in Commission Regulation (EC) No 557/2007 (**'Organic eggs'**, **'Free range eggs'**, **'Barn eggs'** or **'Eggs from caged hens'**

- **Amendment 56 (see text below)** of the *OPINION of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development* – which widens **the idea of the labelling of eggs under Commission Regulation (EC) for No 557/2007 for**

different animal species for the production of meat, meat products and milk, asking Commission to establish specific criteria for indicating the forms of rearing different animal species.

Success of the egg labelling scheme should be extended so that information on the production type is required for all animal products including all processed meat, milk and dairy food. Whenever animal origin products are part of processed food, information about the rearing systems used in the production of the raw ingredients must be included on the label, next to product in the ingredient list.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Stopes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christopher Stopes
The IFOAM EU Group President

Selected amendments – of the DRAFT REPORT on the provision of food information to consumers (COM(2008)0040 – C6-0052/2008 – 2008/0028(COD)). Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. Rapporteur: Renate Sommer

Amendment 361

Carl Schlyter

Proposal for a regulation

Article 19, paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. For products produced from animals that have been fed with genetically modified feedingstuffs pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003, the words 'from animals fed with genetically modified feedingstuffs' shall appear in the list of ingredients referred to in Article 19 immediately following the ingredient(s) concerned. Where there is no list of ingredients, the words 'produced from animals fed with genetically modified feedingstuffs' shall appear clearly on the labelling.

Justification

It is interesting for consumers to know whether a food has been produced by the use of genetically modified feed. There is a clear gap in the provisions concerning food produced from animals fed with genetically modified feeding stuffs as Recital 16 of Regulation 1829/2003 excludes such products from the labelling requirement.

Amendment 362

Carl Schlyter

Article 19, paragraph 1b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1b. For products containing eggs or egg products, the terms referred to in Commission Regulation (EC) No 557/2007, Annex I shall be added in brackets after the

respective ingredient in the ingredient list - according to the farming method the eggs were produced with. For eggs from organic production, the respective ingredient may be labelled in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, Article 23 (4) (b).

Justification

Many consumers would like to know by which farming method the eggs contained in their food have been produced. The ingredients must therefore be specified by the terms 'Free range eggs', 'Barn eggs' or 'Eggs from caged hens'

Selected amendment of the OPINION of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development. Rapporteur: Marc Tarabella

Amendment 56

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 27 a (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 27a

Indication of the forms of rearing different animal species

By 31 December 2010 at the latest, in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 290 TFEU, the Commission shall establish specific criteria for indicating the forms of rearing different animal species for the production of meat, meat products and milk, along the lines of the labelling of eggs under Commission Regulation (EC) No 557/2007 of 23 May 2007 laying down detailed rules for implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1028/2006 on marketing standards for eggs¹. The labelling of foods containing milk and meat will then be made on this basis.

ANNEX 1. Table of recommendation for voting with comments to the proposed amendments to the DRAFT REPORT on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the provision of food information to consumers (COM(2008)0040 – C6-0052/2008 – 2008/0028(COD)).

Number of amendment	The IFOAM EU position and comments
202	Against
203	In favour
204	In favour Decision taking processes should be fast and efficient.
205	Against
206	In favour
207	In favour
208	In favour
209	In favour
210	In favour
211	In favour
212	Against
213	In favour (together with amendments 216 and 217)
214	Against
215	Against
216	In favour
217	In favour
218	Against
219	Against
220	Against
221	Against
222	Against
223	Against
225	In favour – important issue
226	In favour
227	In favour
228	Against
229	Against
230	In favour
231	Against
232	Against
233	In favour
234	Against
235	Against
236	Against
237	Against
238	Against
239	Against
240	In favour
242	Against
243	In favour
244	Against
245	Against
246	in favour
250	In favour
251	In favour
252	In favour

253	In favour
254	Against
255	In favour
256	Against
257	In favour
259	In favour
260	Against
261	In favour
262	Against
265	Against
267	In favour
268	Against
270	Against
271	In favour
277	Against
278	In favour
279	In favour
280	Against
281	Against
282	In favour
285	Against
286	In favour
291	In favour
292	In favour
293	Against
295	In favour
296	In favour
297	In favour
299	in favour
300	Against
315	In favour
317	Against
318	In favour !!
322	In favour
323	Against
324	In favour
325	In favour
326	Against
327	In favour
328	Against
329	Against
330	Against
331	Against
332	Against
333	Against
335	In favour
336	Against
337	Against
338	Against
339	Against
341	Against
342	Against
343	In favour
345	Against



348	In favour
349	In favour
350	Against
351	Against
352	Against
479	In favour
480	Against
481	In favour
483	In favour
485	In favour
486	In favour
488	In favour
489	Against
490	In favour
492	In favour
493	Against
497	Against
498-500	Against No to another EU logo
505	Against