

3rd EUROPEAN ORGANIC CONGRESS



MADRID, 7 June, 2010

Green New Deal for sustainability to be negotiated in Madrid

Agriculture policies and the role of the food sector in meeting global challenges will be discussed by EU officials and organic stakeholders at the IFOAM EU's Madrid congress "Green New Deal for Sustainable Food Chains"

-----**Early bird registration still possible until tomorrow**-----

Brussels, 04/05/2010 – The 3rd European Organic Congress in Madrid (1) on 7th June will provide a platform to discuss the future of agricultural policies regarding their potential to contribute to facing pressing challenges such as climate change, loss of biodiversity and the economic crisis.

Alina Ujupan, Member of the Cabinet of Dacian Cioloş, the European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, will give a speech about the CAP post-2013 process and **Maria Angeles Benitez Salas**, Director for Sustainability and Quality of Agriculture and Rural Development in the European Commission, will talk about EU policies to strengthen sustainable and quality food production.

Claudia Olazábal, Deputy Head of Unit for Biodiversity in the European Commission, will give an outlook on which role farming will have to play in the post-2010 biodiversity strategy of the EU.

Rareş-Lucian Niculescu, Vice-Chair of the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development in the European Parliament, will provide an outlook on the role of the European Parliament in the CAP post-2013 process and the potential of a new CAP to contribute to meeting future challenges.

In her speech "Local farming and global climate - organic matter in soils and its role in climate change mitigation" **Juana Labrador**, University of Extremadura, will stress the role of soil management in climate change mitigation.

[Please register online for the Congress "Green New Deal for Sustainable Food Chains" on 7th June, Madrid](#) (2)

The European Organic Congress III "Green New Deal for Sustainable Food Chains - The strategic role of the organic food sector to promote efficient use of natural resources and sustainable jobs in rural areas" is organised by the IFOAM EU Group (3) and SEAE (4), with EFFAT (5), Countdown 2010 (6) and TP Organics (7) as partners.



More information:

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NOTES:

(1) The European Organic Congress of the IFOAM EU Group is the third after the European Organic Congress in 2007 and 2009, providing a platform to discuss present developments that are of high concern for the organic sector. In 2010, the European Organic Congress will for the first time take place outside Brussels in two different locations; Spain (Madrid) and Italy (Rome). More information to be found at: www.organic-congress-ifoameu.org. (The 4th European Organic Congress that will evaluate the first year's performance of the EU regulation for organic food and farming (EC 834/2007) will take place in Rome on 21 and 22 June 2010 and has a separate website and registration:

http://www.organic-congress-ifoameu.org/Congress_Rome.aspx

(2) Full registration link in case of problems with the hyperlink:

<https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dFFsbTBxbENXT2NTYm9PNVVMck1Nd3c6MA>

(3) The **IFOAM EU Group** represents more than 300 member organisations of IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) in the EU-27, the EU accession countries and EFTA. Member organisations include: consumer, farmer and processor associations; research, education and advisory organisations; certification bodies and commercial organic companies.

(4) **SEAE** – Sociedad Española de Agricultura Ecológica (Spanish Society of Organic Farming) is a non-profit association with more than 800 members, amongst them researchers, teachers, advisors, certifiers, and also traders, farmers and processors from all over Spain, working to encourage, coordinate and facilitate research, education, advice and dissemination of all aspects related to organic farming, agro-ecology and sustainable rural development. (www.agroecologia.net)

(5) **EFFAT** is the European Federation of Trade Unions in the Food, Agriculture and Tourism sectors, representing 120 national trade unions from 35 European countries. EFFAT is an autonomous European trade union federation. As a member of the ETUC, EFFAT promotes the members' interests jointly and with strength regarding all the European interprofessional issues. (www.effat.eu)

(6) **Countdown 2010** is a network of active partners working together towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target. Each partner commits to specific efforts to tackle the causes of biodiversity loss. The Countdown 2010 Secretariat – hosted by the IUCN Regional Office for Pan-Europe – facilitates and encourages action, promotes the importance of the 2010 Biodiversity Target and assesses progress towards 2010

(7) **TP organics** is a platform for organic food and farming research which joins the efforts of industry and civil society in defining organic research priorities and defending them vis-à-vis the policy-makers. Its Vision reveals the huge potential of the organic food production to mitigate some of the major global problems of the century from climate change, to food security, to the whole range of socio-economic challenges in the rural areas. (www.tporganics.eu)

Support and Sponsorship note:

The organisers acknowledge co-funding by

- the European Community, Directorate-General for the Environment
- the Biodiversity Foundation Spain in the framework of the EAFRD-funded Biodiversity 2010 campaign
- the Spanish Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs
- Ariza as main sponsor of the IFOAM EU Group in 2010

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