

EU institutions to serve organic: Initiative of IFOAM EU, Biofresh and BioForum calls for increased share of organic procurement

Brussels, 01/06/2010 - EU institution canteens will offer a daily organic dish along with organic desserts and fruits during the European Commission's [Green Week](#) in Brussels and the Belgian *Bio Week* (1). The offer is the result of a targeted cooperation between the IFOAM EU Group (2), [BioForum](#) (3) and [Biofresh](#) (4) in order to increase the share of organic food offered by EU institutions' canteens and with this to contribute to the EU biodiversity goals (main topic of this year's Green Week). The IFOAM EU Group urges EU institutions to take the initiative as a starting point to permanently offer more organic meals in EU canteens and thereby increase the share of green public procurement.

"In serving organic meals in EU canteens the EU sets a clear message that it is serious about its effort to halt the loss of biodiversity", says Marco Schlüter, Director of the IFOAM EU Group. "Green public procurement is an excellent tool to support the [EU biodiversity strategy beyond 2010](#) and it fits into the Commissions objective of achieving an EU-wide 50% share in [green public procurement](#) (5). In this regard, organic is the natural choice and it is important that EU institutions set an example for both governmental and private canteens in Europe by opting for organic whenever possible."

"Green Week and Bio Week go well hand in hand in this project, the focal point being to take care of our earth and global biodiversity - said Leen Laenens, Director of BioForum Vlanderen - It is important for BioForum to cooperate with the IFOAM EU Group at the European level, in order to support the strengths as well as the growth the of the organic sector".

"During the Brussels Green Week and the following Belgian Organic Week an expected number of 50,000 organic meals will be sold in the canteens of the institutions", adds Renaat Daem, Sales Manager for catering in Biofresh, the largest Belgian organic caterer. "We want to offer the people the opportunity to taste biodiversity and get to know organic produce."

During the coming two weeks the canteens of the European Parliament, Justus Lipsius, Committee of Regions/European Economic and Social Committee, Berlaymont, Charlemagne and Beaulieu will serve an organic meal daily. The IFOAM EU Group will be present at the Green Week exhibition with a stand, and additionally with information stands in the canteens of the European Parliament on June 1-2 and in the Committee of Regions on June 2 and 8.

More information:

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NOTES:

(1) Semaine Bio/Bio Week is the national Belgian week dedicated to organic production and lifestyle, organised by BioForum.

See more at www.semainebio.be (French) or www.bioweek.be (Dutch)

(2) 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. The IFOAM EU Group works to promote organic food and farming and to secure organic interests in EU policies and regulation.

See more at www.ifoam-eu.org

(3) BioForum (IFOAM EU Group member) is the Belgian organisation for organic food and farming. It brings together representatives and coordinates the efforts of organic producers, processors, distributors, retail outlets and consumers of organic with the goal to promote the evolution of the organic industry. In the field of catering the Walloon part of BioForum offers assistance in gradual introduction of organic products in institutional settings (schools, hospitals and homes, businesses). This is coupled with training modules and information aimed at managers and cooks as well as guests/users.

See more at www.bioforum.be

(4) Biofresh is the largest organic-only caterer in Belgium.

See more at www.biofresh.be

(5) [Commission communication 400\(2008\) "Public procurement for a better environment"](#)