

### ***Future CAP must support multifunctional agriculture in Europe***

**Brussels-Bucharest, 27/04/2009** – The post-2013 reorganisation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) must focus on maintaining and developing multifunctional agriculture. This is especially of relevance for countries like Romania, having a huge number of small and diverse farms. Of all systems, organic farming best meets the requirements of multifunctional agriculture. In particular, it offers an economically and ecologically sound direction for many farmers, including Romanian farmers.

These are the main results of the European seminar “Multifunctional agriculture in Europe – the role of organic food and farming and its political framework” (1) which took place in Bucharest from April 23 to 24, 2009. It was organised by the IFOAM EU Group (2) and facilitated by Federatia Nationala de Agricultura Ecologica Romania (3).

With the adoption of the EU Health Check, discussion about the way the CAP should look after 2013 has now started (although the final decisions will have to wait until after the budget for the period 2014-2020 has been negotiated).

“It is essential that the EU commits itself to support multifunctional agriculture much stronger in future”, said Francis Blake, President of the IFOAM EU Group. “Only in this way can it truly be demonstrated that public money within the CAP will be spent in the interests of EU citizens. The CAP is increasingly moving in this direction, but significant contradictions remain. Obstacles for multifunctional agriculture need to be removed and the support for organic farming needs to be extended.”

Organic farming offers a systematic solution to the main future challenges such as Climate Change, Biodiversity, Soil Protection and Water Management. Since the market pays only for the food itself, but not for additional services provided by organic farming, it is necessary to compensate this “market failure” by appropriate measures within the future CAP.

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More information:

IFOAM EU Group, phone + 32-2-280 12 23, Fax: +32-2-735 73 81,  
[info@ifoam-eu.org](mailto:info@ifoam-eu.org), [www.ifoam-eu.org](http://www.ifoam-eu.org)

## Notes

- (1) The CAP Seminar "Multifunctional agriculture in Europe – the role of organic food and farming and its political framework", afforded the opportunity to outline impacts of changing legal frameworks in Europe. About 37 experts of the organic and environmental sector from 21 countries met in Bucharest, Romania, to discuss the future situation of the organic food and farming sector. The seminar took place from 23-24 April in Bucharest, Romania.

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- (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.
- (3) Federatia Nationala de Agricultura Ecologica Romania (FNAE) represents 6 Romanian member organisations: BIOTERRA, Romanian Association for Sustainable Agriculture (ARAD), AGROECOLOGIA, BIO-ROMANIA, ECO-RUAL and Association for Ecological Agriculture (Agri-Eco), which are the most important in the organic farming movement of Romania.