

3rd European Organic Congress – 2 opportunities to discuss the future of organic in Europe

The 3rd European Organic Congress of IFOAM EU will be split in a policy part and a regulation part, to take place in Rome and Madrid in May and June 2010

Brussels, 16/02/2010 – The IFOAM EU Group (1) invites the organic sector twice to a European Organic Congress in 2010 (2). The congress will be in two parts to deal with two issues of urgent importance for the organic sector: the first congress will discuss the potential of the **organic movement to contribute to a new green deal** for a sustainable European economy; the second one will **evaluate the first year of the new Organic Regulation** in place and give space for an outlook on further pieces to be added to the regulation.

1. The first part of the European Organic Congress 2010 - “**New Green Deal for Sustainable Food Chains - Save Climate and Biodiversity – careful use of resources and creation of green organic jobs in the food sector**” takes place **in Madrid on 27 of May** and is organised in cooperation with SEAE (3). It will focus on the question how to best use and promote the potentials the organic sector has to offer in order to contribute to the mitigation of climate change, the halt of biodiversity loss and the creation of jobs.
2. The second part of the European Organic Congress is set in **Rome on 21 and 22 of June** and is arranged in conjunction with IAMB (4). This congress will provide a platform to evaluate the first year’s performance of the **EU Regulation for Organic Food and Farming** (EC 834/2007), to find out what the bottlenecks and challenges are and to identify areas where special attention should be paid to in future. Moreover, new areas that are expected to be included in the regulation soon will be explored.

High level speakers from the European Commission, the European Parliament and the organic sector will attend both conferences. Further information will be available on the website www.organic-congress-ifoameu.org from **1 of March**. More information and registration option will be posted on the website.

End (characters 2088)

More information:

IFOAM EU Group, phone + 32-2-280 12 23, Fax: +32-2-735 73 81,
info@ifoam-eu.org, www.ifoam-eu.org

NOTES:

(1) 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.

(2) 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 current 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 after March 1 at: www.organic-congress-ifoameu.org.

(3) SEAE – Sociedad Española de Agricultura Ecológica is one of the Spanish member organisations of the IFOAM EU Group. See more at: www.agroecologia.net (ES)

(4) IAMB – Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari is one of the four institutes of the International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Studies (CIHEAM). See more at: www.iamb.it/en