

## IFOAM EU Group launches Organic Aquaculture Dossier to facilitate the sector adopt the new rules

**Nuremberg, 18/02/2010** - The IFOAM EU Group (1), in cooperation with The Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (2) launched today a Dossier on the EU Organic Aquaculture Legislation. The publication - "*Organic Aquaculture - EU Regulations (EC) 834/2007, (EC) 889/2008, (EC) 710/2009: BACKGROUND, ASSESSMENT, INTERPRETATION*" - was presented during BioFach in Nuremberg (3) at the stand of the Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies, which had supported it in the framework of the INTERBIO project (4).

The Aquaculture Dossier introduces and evaluates the first European regulation on organic aquaculture. Christopher Stopes, IFOAM EU President, said: "The IFOAM EU Group welcomes this move to regulate the organic aquaculture sector in Europe. Legislation relevant to the sector now includes general provisions set out in the new Organic Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and Implementing Rules in Regulation (EC) No 889/2008, in particular the most recent addition to the latter: Organic Aquaculture Implementing Rules - Regulation (EC) No 710/2009. Together, the regulations represent an important starting point for the extensive further work that is required to achieve a comprehensive and fair legislative framework, paving the way for the development of organic aquaculture in Europe; and, since Europe is a major importer, organic aquaculture worldwide".

Marco Schlüter, IFOAM EU Director, said: "The Organic Aquaculture Implementing Rules were published in August 2009 and since then the organic sector has been working to implement them on the national level in time for the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2010, from which date the new rules will apply. As a revision, with changes coming into force after July 2013, is already planned, the IFOAM EU Group intends to spend the intervening years preparing a thorough review. The Aquaculture Dossier will facilitate this process by communicating the content of organic aquaculture legislation and its implications to stakeholders and by providing a starting point for discussion and development.

The Aquaculture Dossier is published in English, and Italian translation will follow shortly. Additional information and an electronic version of the document are available at [www.ifoam-eu.org/positions/publications/aquaculture](http://www.ifoam-eu.org/positions/publications/aquaculture).

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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)

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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 Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (IAMB - Istituto Agronomico Mediterraneo di Bari) is a centre for postgraduate education and applied research - [www.iamb.it](http://www.iamb.it)

(3) BioFach is the biggest trade fair of organic products in Europe and takes place every year in Nuremberg, Germany - [www.biofach.de](http://www.biofach.de)

(3) The project "Promotion of domestic and international demand for organic products - INTERBIO" is financed in the framework of the Italian Action Plan for Organic Farming by the Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (MiPAAF) and coordinated by IAMB - Istituto Agronomico Mediterraneo di Bari. Its main objective is to promote Italian organic farming both at national and international level.

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