

CAP Health Check: the mission is missed

The EU Agro Ministers missed a big chance to let the CAP Health Check face Europe's future challenges

Brussels, 20/11/2008 – The yesterday EU Agriculture Council's decision missed a good opportunity to let the CAP Health Check work for a sustainable European agriculture that takes into account the new environmental challenges and the interest of the future generations. The EU farm ministers took a set of decisions which water down the Commission's proposals within the so called CAP Health Check – the EU review of the Common Agriculture Policy. The huge potential of organic farming for the delivery of the aims of CAP was not reflected in the minister decision.

"In its current shape the CAP Health Check is not the appropriate medicine for the patient" – commented Marco Schlüter, Director of the IFOAM EU Group (1). With this decision the EU agriculture ministers further scaled down the "modulation proposals" to totally 10%. The modulation proposals refer to shifting funding from the untargeted farm subsidies towards targeted funding for farming systems delivering common goods and maintaining sustainable farming practices - including, notably, the organic farming (2).

"It is now important that at least the shifted money (through article 68 and modulation) are used to its maximum to tackle future challenges such as climate change, loss of biodiversity and wise water management. In this regard organic production must be in the focus of member states as it delivers systemic solutions to these challenges" – said the Director of IFOAM EU Group. "Further, our hope is now that the currently started discussion on CAP post-2013 will give a better chance for the development of a sustainable agriculture policy in Europe".

End (Characters 1,773)

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



Press Release

International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements – EU Regional Group

Notes

- (1) The IFOAM EU Group represents the 304 member organisations of IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) in the EU, EFTA and the candidate countries. Member organisations include: consumer, farmer and processor associations; research, education and advisory organisations; certification bodies and commercial organic companies.
- (2) The decision sets the basic modulation at 10 %. In earlier communications IFOAM EU Group has called for setting up the modulation at around 20 % which would help for the policy to secure diversity of agricultural production and viable rural areas.