

European Organic Congress: Registration Now Open

Brussels (18/07/2007) - The IFOAM EU Group invites all interested parties to the European Organic Congress (1) which will take place in Brussels on December 4 and 5, 2007. The congress will be opened by EU Agriculture Commissioner Mariann Fischer Boel. Online registration for the congress is now available on the congress website - www.organic-congress-ifoameu.org - along with detailed information and the programme of this high level event.

The congress puts focus on the future EU policy on organic food and farming within the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP). This large-scale forum of the organic sector in Europe, which is organised by IFOAM EU Group (2), is expected to bring together around 200 participants representing: the European Commission, authorities and organisations from the EU Member States, Members of Parliament and a broad range of stakeholders from all over Europe.

The European Organic Congress will evaluate the implementation of the European Action Plan on Organic Food and Farming three and half years after it was launched. In a second step, the participants will discuss and develop a political agenda within the CAP of the EU-27 to enhance the further development of organic food and farming, underlining the various benefits organic production can deliver to society and how it can contribute to the EU political objectives.

The following topics will be given particular consideration:

- The benefits of organic food and farming to society
- Organic food and farming policy within the CAP 'Health Check' and the mid-term review
- Rural development in the new financial period
- Organic food and farming & GMOs
- The new organic regulation: opportunities & challenges
- Merging environmental policy and aims into a consistent CAP
- Organic research to boost jobs, innovation and competitiveness
- Organic certification, processing and trade

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Announcement

International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements – EU Regional Group

Notes

(1) The congress "The Future of Organic Food and Farming within the reformed CAP - Looking on Three Years of the European Action Plan and Beyond" is co-financed by the European Community, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development. The sole responsibility for the communication/ publication lies with the author. The Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

(2) The IFOAM EU Group represents the 330 member organisations of IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) in the EU-27, EFTA and the accession countries. Member organisations include: consumer, farmer and processor associations; research, education and advisory organisations; certification bodies and commercial organic companies.