

**Newsletter No 51, January 2012**

International Federation of Organic Agriculture  
Movements EU Group - IFOAM EU Group



*Photo: Karmen Vermeulen*

Page	Table of contents	Page	Newsletter No 51, January 2012
<b>3</b>	<b>Welcome Note</b>	<b>8-9</b>	<u>Food Safety, Security &amp; Animal Welfare</u>
<b>4</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> European Organic Congress</b>	<b>10</b>	<u>GMOs</u>
<b>5-11</b>	<b>1. News/ Updates of IFOAM EU Working Fields</b>	<b>11</b>	<u>Climate Change</u>
<b>5</b>	<b>1.1 Regulation</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1.3 TP Organics / EU Reseach Policy</b>
<b>5</b>	<u>Political Hot Spot</u>	<b>12- 13</b>	<b>2. IFOAM EU Internal Updates</b>
<b>6-11</b>	<b>1.2 Policy</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2.1 Sponsorship</b>
<b>6</b>	<u>Political Hot Spot</u>	<b>14- 15</b>	<b>3. Events</b>
<b>6-7</b>	<u>Common Agriculture Policy (CAP)</u>	<b>15</b>	<b>3.1 Calendar of Events</b>
<b>7</b>	<u>Biodiversity</u>	<b>16</b>	<b>4. Photo of the Month</b>

Dear Readers,

The year has just begun, but it has already engulfed the attention of the organic community. 2012 will see the continued efforts by the IFOAM EU Group in collaborating with Commissioners, Parliamentarians, member states and Presidencies, to establish the organic agenda within the major reform of the Common Agriculture Policy that is now in the hands of the European Parliament and Council within the co-decision procedure. This will be one of the primary issues raised at the annual IFOAM EU European Organic Congress, titled, "Smart Change towards a sustainable CAP – Organic and high nature value farming shaping future food systems" taking place this year in Copenhagen, Denmark coinciding with the Danish Presidency. The recently launched European Commission proposal "Horizon 2020" for the new EU framework on innovation and research presents an opportunity for the organic community to institute a considerable impact on the future of funding for organic research for the period of 2014-2020. The IFOAM EU Group will continue to mainstream its advocacy efforts in the research platform TP Organics and hosts its secretariat after being encouraged by being successful in impacting the EU research agenda in its last calls.

In the area of EU organic regulation, we expect a vote in the standing committee on organic farming on the proposal of the European Commission on organic wine processing – where the COM has taken up the IFOAM EU Group compromise proposal

regarding SO2 reductions. This possibly completes the revision of the former organic regulation 2092/91. Nevertheless, the European Commission will launch a new consultation process on how to improve the regulation in 2012/13. It will be interesting to see where this process will bring the organic movement.

However, the IFOAM EU Group is back hard at work following a highly successful IFOAM EU Group general assembly at the end of 2011, which brought forth an agreement on a new membership fee system geared towards creating a less bureaucratic and more transparent payment and invoicing method. Noteworthy amendments to the membership fee system include a new individual membership system which will replace the previous country based fees and a common and synchronised invoicing arrangement with the IFOAM World office to enhance the clarity and simplicity of the overall system. These reforms are essential to stabilising the work of the IFOAM EU Group in order to increase our lobbying impact and ensure that our working areas continue to have the support and resources needed to best serve the movement. The new membership fee outline will be available on the IFOAM EU website.

As every year, IFOAM EU will be present at BioFach, and have arranged for various workshops. A full overview of the events and activities that we are involved in can be found here in the newsletter.



We are likewise looking forward to the opportunity of meeting with you at BioFach, come and visit a delegation of our team at Hall 1/1-240.

Also in 2012, the IFOAM EU Group office team of the will be at the pulse of developments in the field of EU agricultural policy. To convey our positions and events even more effectively, 2012 will see a re-launch of our website. Should you wish to contribute – in ideas, knowledge, experience, get in contact with [communication@ifoam-eu.org](mailto:communication@ifoam-eu.org)

May the year 2012 be a good one for all of us and for organic food and farming,

Yours

Marco Schlüter

# 6<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN ORGANIC CONGRESS

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK  
17-18 APRIL 2012

The 6th European Organic Congress in Denmark is taking place at a crucial point in time for the debate on the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The Congress “Smart change - towards a sustainable CAP” addresses the policy change needed to reach a greener, smarter, fairer future CAP, improve the availability of sustainably produced food for consumers and to ensure the credibility of certification for sustainable farm systems. It provides the organic community with an opportunity for exchange and discussion and will bring together high-level speakers from the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European organic movement and other civil society organisations, along with participants from across Europe.

The discussions around the CAP will highlight the public benefits organic farming and high nature value farming can deliver to policy frameworks for fair markets as well as rural development approaches that promote sustainability. Next to the CAP, the new organic regulation will be assessed and approaches for its further development will be

discussed - centring on sustainability, efficiency and the credibility of organic certification systems. Finally, the question of how organic food reaches the consumer and what health impacts our food policies have will be discussed along with approaches such as organic targets in public catering.

Following high level panel discussions, the topics will be further elaborated in three interactive workshops covering organic regulation, CAP and promotional measures and the green public procurement of organic products.

The programme for the 6th European Organic Congress **excursion** has been finalised and **registration** is now open! Take this opportunity to catch a glimpse of the various actors within the Danish organic sector - as well as sample some of their delicious products!

[Click here for more information on the excursion](#)

[Early bird registration ends 26 February!](#)

[Click here to Register!](#)

[For more information please visit our Congress Website](#)



*The Congress will take place at the beautiful [Schæffergården castle](#).*



# 1. NEWS/ UPDATES OF IFOAM EU WORKING FIELDS

## 1.1 ORGANIC REGULATION

### POLITICAL HOT SPOT

#### *New consultation process to improve EU organic rules is in preparation*

Agriculture and Rural Development Commissioner, Dacian Cioloş, has planned that following a decision on organic wine processing rules, in 2012 a consultation process on how to improve the organic regulation will be launched. This was also laid down in the Commission work plan 2012. A formatted and detailed approach is currently being discussed at the COM level. The IFOAM EU Group has, and will have, further discussions with officials and will inform its membership accordingly about the detailed process.



Commissioner Cioloş at the International Green Week Fair in Berlin.

(Photo: Cioloş FB)

#### *New draft Commission regulation on organic wine making*

The decision for implementing rules on organic wine making is coming to its final stages. The European Commission has sent its proposal to the mandatory assessment on the Technical Barriers to Trade of the WTO. A vote is expected during the next SCOF meeting on 7-8 February 2012. The European Commission took up the IFOAM EU compromise proposal as the basis for the proposal regarding the question of sulfite reduction. The IFOAM EU Group therefore welcomes this regulatory proposal, and though the outcomes of the vote are still unclear, there is still a hope that a majority decision is foreseeable.

#### *Organic feed*

During the last SCOF meeting on 19-20 December 2011 the European Commission confirmed its intention to „bring forward a proposal containing, among other elements, an allowance of 5% of non-organic protein feed for non-herbivores applying as from 1st January 2012“ and continuing up to the end of 2014. The draft is likely to be presented for approval by SCOF at the next meeting on February 7-8.

#### *FVO organic audits in 2012*

The Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) has published its audit programme for 2012. It announces that the FVO will carry out audits in the organic sector and the respective competent authorities of Portugal and Poland. The aim of the controls is to ensure compliance with EU regulations on organic production and labelling of organic products. The FVO also conducts controls in third countries to ensure that competent authorities apply the EU regulations or their equivalent with respect to animals, plants and products intended for export to the European Union. This year the organic sector in India will be audited.

After performing a pilot audit in the Austrian organic sector the FVO is now ready to conduct organic audits in two member states per year, later to be upgraded to four member states per year.



#### *How green is your fish?*

Measuring the environmental impact of 20 aquaculture standards using ten environmental factors, this study, released last month by the University of Victoria, finds out which aquaculture eco-labels are actually reducing damage to marine ecosystems. A number of organic labels come out top of the list.



### POLITICAL HOT SPOT

#### *EEA and European Commission encourages environmental taxation*

The [European Environment Agency \(EEA\)](#) argues that **“shifting the tax burden from labour to environmentally damaging activities would serve as a catalyst for ‘green’ innovation”** as well as boost exports of new technologies, increase job creation, and help reduce GHGs. The European Commission has also proposed a similar strategy in their [Communication on Resource Efficiency](#) published on 20 September 2011. The EEA explains that though the process is extremely “complex and variable” and the overall impact on the economic wellbeing of certain members of society is yet to be determined, in the long term eco-taxation **“arguably holds the key to sustained prosperity by enabling economic growth to continue within environmental limits”**.



#### *EU Commissioner Ciolos, on organic farming and CAP reform*

European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Dacian Ciolos, discusses the developments in the organic European and global markets at the Dutch organisation, BioNext event, stating that organic farmers and practices have won the confidence of European consumers. Ciolos urged the producers organic products to ensure that the image and reputation of the organic sector in Europe is maintained. Ciolos stressed that the benefits of organic production will be recognised in the new CAP.

[Read the full summary of the video on the BioNext website \(in Dutch\)](#)

[Click on video below \(in French/ Sub-titles English\)](#)



## Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

#### *BioFach features CAP discussion with MEP*

IFOAM EU will hold the debate “CAP reform – how policy support impacts organic markets” on 17 February on BioFach. Just confirmed as special guest speaker for the debate has Member of European Parliament [Martin Häusling of the Green Party](#); he is an organic farmer from Hessen and fights for a greener Common Agricultural Policy on EU level.



#### *IFOAM EU responds to the 50 Years Anniversary of the CAP Campaign*

The IFOAM EU Group, [ARC 2020](#) and [Friends of the Earth Europe \(FoEE\)](#) have called for a radical overhaul of the ongoing CAP reforms to make the CAP fit for the next 50 years. In a [press release](#) published on January 23rd, marking the launch of the 50th anniversary of the [CAP campaign](#), the groups outlined the need for European agriculture to move away from harmful and counterproductive industrialised agriculture towards productive and sustainable ecological and multifunctional farming practices that protect and enhance the environment.



**7th EAP: Environmental Policy will need a differentiated approach in the future**

EU environmental policies will need common yet differentiated approaches in the future according to the European Environmental Agency (EEA). Speaking at a [workshop](#) on the 7th Environmental Action Programme (EAP) in the European Parliament on the 12 January, Jacqueline McGlade, Executive Director of the EEA used the example of water to illustrate that different measures would be needed to tackle water issues in Northern and Southern member states. The workshop chaired by Jo Leinen MEP rapporteur of a [draft report](#) on the 6th and 7th EAP brought together key stakeholders from the Commission, the Danish EU Presidency, Ireland (who will hold the Presidency in the first half of 2013), the research community and civil society. MEPs have urged the Commission to present their proposals for the 7th EAP as soon as possible. The Commission is expected to adopt a roadmap in October 2012.

**IFOAM EU on genetic resources in agriculture**

The IFOAM EU Group took part in the Commission stakeholder consultation on the Community Programme for the conservation of farm genetic resources ([EC No 870/2004](#)). While IFOAM EU clearly supports the objectives and the continuation of the programme, it demands better funding possibilities for NGOs as well as for farmers' and gardeners' initiatives active in this field. Moreover, policy coherence has to be ensured to maintain and further develop agro-biodiversity-changes in the CAP, seed market regulations, plant variety property rights, research policies and a clear ban of "patents on life" are necessary to reach this aim.

**Commission visualises Biodiversity strategy**

The DG Environment of the European Commission has republished its Biodiversity strategy in attractive [brochure](#) and [factsheet](#) format.



**Organic seeds database**

2012 marks the 10th anniversary of [Save our Seeds](#) in Germany. In the USA, a new [online organic seed catalogue](#) to link producers with growers is in the pipeline, and the largest US American seed conference took place from 19th to 21st January 2012 in Port Townsend. More information available [here](#).



**France to crack down on farmer-saved seed**

A 180°-turn from laissez-faire seed propagation to strict royalty enforcement is set to sweep across France as announced by the [conservative UMP party](#), who will no longer stop plant breeders from making profit at the expense of farmer and food sovereignty.

**ECJ news on marketing of non-registered seed**

The General advocate of the European Court of Justice (ECJ), Juliane Kokott, [published her conclusions](#) on the case Kokopelli Association against Graines Baumaux SAS on 19 January. The document questions the proportionality and usefulness of the prohibition of the marketing of seed of non-registered varieties.

## Industrial farming a breeding ground for antibiotic resistance

A **spot-check** in supermarkets conducted by **German Friends of the Earth BUND** found every second chicken sample to be contaminated with antibiotic-resistant germs, raising fears of consumer safety, medicines losing their effect, and environmental pollution. A reduction or ban on industrial farming methods and cuts in subsidies to such farms are being called for by **environmental and organic NGOs**.



Photo: BUND

The IFOAM EU Group will continue to monitor and inform the sector on the developments regarding the state of antibiotics in food production and encourage system wide organic approaches which involve no routine use of antibiotics and no intensive husbandry systems that require up to 95% of animals being treated with antibiotics.

IFOAM EU Group partner organization, **ARC2020**, has produced a **press release** regarding the problem of overuse of antibiotics. Following the **antibiotic scandal** exposed in Germany this month, other organizations have also revealed that this issue is not only limited to Europe. A **recent study** on pork production by the **US Institute for**

**Agriculture and Trade Policy** reveals the serious hazards that the overuse of antibiotics will have on public health in America. The recently founded **Alliance to Save our Antibiotics** has also produced a case study on **'How human health is under threat from over-use of antibiotics in intensive livestock farming'**.

## Prices, incomes and power in the food supply chain

The European Parliament adopted a **resolution** on January 19 calling for measures to tackle current challenges in farm supply input chains from seed and feed to fertilisers and energy. The text highlights the need to address the high costs of farm inputs and to create greater transparency to curb the market dominance of agri-businesses. It also demands the enhancement of multifunctional agro-ecosystems.

Focussing on commodity prices and farm incomes, the European Commission has **published an analysis** of how the agricultural commodities market could develop until 2020 under status quo conditions. Interestingly, two new reports target the issues of food speculation and power in the food supply chain:

A new **report** by the Scottish Agricultural College launched at the **Oxford Farming Conference**

documents the rise in power of transnational corporations and their dominance over the food supply chain: global grain trade is largely in the hands of four companies, fertilisers controlled by seven, and three companies hold sway over 50 per cent of the seed market.



Showcasing yet again the detrimental effects of food price speculation on people's livelihoods is this new report **"Farming Money"** by **Friends of the Earth Europe**.



## Guide to organic food by French doctors' association

A comprehensive booklet answering many of the questions current consumers may have in relation to healthy choices and organic food was published by the doctors' and health professionals' organisation "Association Santé Environnement de France"

(available in French only).



# Food Safety, Security & Animal Welfare

## Update on EU Ecolabel for food and feed products

The **EUEB (European Union Ecolabelling Board)** is expected to advise the European Commission regarding the extension of the scope of the **EU Ecolabel** to food and feed products, at its next meeting on 7-8 March 2012, which the European Commission (DG Environment) will use to decide on ecolabelling for food. It is expected that the EUEB will base its advice on the recently published **feasibility study** on the EU Ecolabel for food and feed products. The food sector, as well as member states, are divided in their opinion towards the Ecolabel for food, while the organic sector is against ecolabelling for food and believes that EUEB's advice will be negative to that point. It is possible that the Ecolabel will not be introduced for all food, however it could be that the EUEB will support the idea to have an ecolabel for certain food products, such as bread, yoghurt and cheese, non-alcoholic beverages and processed fish. It appears unlikely that the Commission will push for the extension of the EU Ecolabel if there is no basis for it. IFOAM EU Group continues to call on its members to inform their **national competent bodies in the EUEB** about the organic sector's position on the Ecolabel for food and feed.



## Commission publishes Animal Welfare Strategy 2012-2015

On 19th January 2012 the **European Commission (DG SANCO)** adopted the new **EU Strategy for the Protection and Welfare of Animals (2012-2015)**. The strategy acknowledges the lack of enforcement of EU legislation by Member States in many areas, poor understanding among operators and gaps in the current legislation. IFOAM EU Group partner organisations, **Eurogroup for Animals** and **Compassion in World Farming** specialising in Animal welfare, have reacted predominantly negative to the new EU strategy paper. The key elements to address these shortcomings are the introduction of science-based animal welfare indicators, continuation of **Food and Veterinary Office (FVO)** inspections and adequate training for animal handling staff, among other measures. This should result in a simplified legal framework and finally lead to enhanced compliance with, and a better understanding of, EU animal welfare legislation. The strategy emphasises the need for information campaigns and international events aiming to inform and promote the EU position on animal welfare towards consumers and trade partners in third countries.

## MEPs called for 50% reduction in food waste by 2025

MEPs have called for urgent measures to be put in place to reduce food waste in the EU by 50% by 2025. To this end MEPs agreed to adopt a **resolution** to confront food waste across the food chain while addressing access to food for EU citizens who live beneath the poverty line.

## MEPs agree new rules on the marketing of biocides

MEPs **approved new rules** on the marketing of biocides and disinfectants in the EU, complementing the rules on pesticides and food legislation. The new legislation will see the assessment of new products gradually coming under the remit of the EU with approval of products at EU level introduced overtime from 2013. Member states are expected to give the green light to the new legislation in mid-2012.

### Small farmers, big change: Scaling up impact in smallholder agriculture

Empowering small farmers and scaling up their projects are in the spotlight in this inspiring **report** by Practical Action and Oxfam, featuring eight projects from around the world.

### Food prices: 5-min info

In an **interview** with Máximo Torero of IFPRI he explains the concepts and impacts of food price volatility, food speculation and climate change.



## GMOs

### BioFach workshop on GMOs and the organic market

IFOAM EU is holding a debate on [“GMOs and the organic market – threats, policies and strategies”](#) at BioFach on 16 February. Stakeholders from the organic food chain will discuss strategies and political demands to ensure the freedom of choice for GMO free food and crops for farmers and consumers.



### Golden Lies

The creators of a GM-rice variety called Golden Rice are eager to get their product out on the fields in 2013, claiming it would help to fight vitamin A deficiency. But critics of the project warn that the product is being pushed onto the market hastily without real proof of its claimed benefits, ignoring environmental and public health concerns.

Find out more in this [new report by Foodwatch](#).



### NGOs send letter of concern over GM-animals

A group of NGOs, including the IFOAM EU Group, have sent a letter to Commissioners Dalli, Ciolos, Potočnik and Damanaki, expressing their dismay over EFSA's decision to look into guidelines for the possible authorisations for food from GM-animals without a prior thorough stakeholder consultation and sustainability assessment. The letter urges the European Commission to intervene in the process and force EFSA to return to the drawing board in assessing environmental, animal welfare and consumer concerns, and question the overall need for such a scheme.

[Read the full letter here.](#)



Commissioner Dalli  
(Photo: Commission website)



Commissioner Damanaki  
(Photo: Guardian UK)



Commissioner Potočnik  
(Photo: New Europe)



Commissioner Ciolos  
(Photo: Euranet)

### The great European GMO-exodus

[BASF](#) has decided to pull out GM crop research of Europe permanently and concentrate its efforts on the American and Asian markets. Citing [“a lack of acceptance”](#) in Europe, the company has vowed to rebuild its base in the USA and cease commercialisation of GMOs intended for Europe only. In a similar vein, GM-giant Monsanto has decided not to push commercialisation of its insect-resistant [MON810](#) in France any further, equally citing unfavourable conditions. The move comes in the wake of protests outside Monsanto's offices in Trèbes ([see video in French here](#)), angry about the fact that despite the French government's promise to reinstate a ban on MON810, following a ruling by the [French court in November](#) last year overturning the government-imposed ban, the French government has not taken any further action. Monsanto has also come under fire in [Argentina](#) recently for one of its subcontractors violating labour rights

For a more detailed analysis of European resistance to GM-crops, read this [new article by the European Voice](#) (scroll to page 16 for the two-page article).



[The BASF's Amflora starch potatoe was one of only two GM crops authorized by the EU Commission](#) Photo: BASF/European Voice

# Climate Change

## Climate change and food – New publications

A [booklet](#) with case studies of organic and conventional farms from four European countries, promoting the best practices for climate-friendly farming has been published by the project 'Climate Farmers'. Whereas in general a very interesting initiative, some recommended practices remain doubtful in terms of overall sustainability.



A Finnish [study](#) has calculated greenhouse gas emissions of food consumption on national and individual, per-portion bases, providing details of the climate impact of agriculture as a whole, as well as individual impacts of 30 different meals.



## 1.3 EU RESEARCH POLICY/ TP ORGANICS



### TP Organics at BioFach 2012

Remember to note the TP Organics event at Bio-Fach in your agendas! With stimulating presentations and the opportunity to ensure that your voice is heard to influence the [Horizon 2020](#).

TP Organics event will be held on Saturday 18.2.2012 from 11.00 to 12.00.

For the agenda and speakers please follow the link below.

[Click for more information on BioFach 2012](#)



### First TP Organic Newsletter in Spanish

TP Organic is pleased to announce that, from 2012, its newsletter will be published also in Spanish thanks to the cooperation with SEAE (Spanish Society of Organic Agriculture).

[To read more click here](#)



### ERA Conference , January 30 2012

In the European Council conclusions of February 2011, the Heads of State and Government called on the EU to rapidly address the remaining obstacles to complete the [European Research Area \(ERA\)](#) by 2014. In response, the Commission intends to propose an ERA Framework in 2012. The ERA conference [‘Fostering Efficiency, Excellence and Growth’](#) in Brussels on January 30 will be an important milestone in the ongoing preparations of this Framework. The event will gather around 400 participants from the broader research stakeholder community and will provide a platform to testify and discuss further about potential bottlenecks and to mobilise a broad consensus and support for the way forward via the ERA Framework. A representative of TP Organics participated in the event and will provide a summary in the next IFOAM EU newsletter as well as on the [TP Organics website](#).



## 2. IFOAM EU GROUP INTERNAL UPDATES

### ***Open position: Regulation Coordinator at IFOAM EU***

IFOAM EU Group is looking to fill the open position of the regulation coordinator. The focus of this position lies on coordinating the IFOAM EU Group work on the organic regulations and to increase its regulation competencies.

To apply please complete the [application form](#) and send it to [info@ifoam-eu.org](mailto:info@ifoam-eu.org).

Application deadline is March 4 2012.

[See here for full job description](#)

---

### ***Call for a Scientific Coordinator!***

Applications for the new post of a scientific coordinator at IFOAM EU Group (TP Organics) are still welcome. The deadline is set for the 6th of February 2012. The scientific coordinator will be responsible for assisting in the conception of positions in the area of EU research policies, for raising the scientific profile of IFOAM EU and TP Organics and for coordinating the activities of the research technology platform.

[Click here for the detailed job description and application form](#)

### ***New Regulation trainee: Lena Tuszynski (DE)***

My first contact to the organic market has been through friends of my family who own an organic farm in the North of Germany where we used to spend our Easter holidays. We loved to eat the fresh cherry-tomatoes, that were extremely sweet and we could pick them ripe from the plant, a luxurious moment for me. As a consumer of organic products, at a certain point of my academic career in economics and cultural studies, I wanted to know more of the organic market and decided to write my thesis about the organisation and political engagement of the organic movement. I am very happy to now broaden my horizon on the organic movement at IFOAM EU Group in Brussels and to join the process of setting up the dossier on the new European Regulations.



### ***Welcome Back Lena!***

IFOAM EU Group would like to welcome back our Head of Communications, Lena Wietheger (DE).

Lena was on maternity leave for the birth of her daughter Ida (both pictured below). We hope she enjoyed her “time off” and is settling nicely back into her role.



## 2.1 SPONSORSHIP

### Support IFOAM EU Group!

Next to membership fees, **sponsoring** is the only other financial input that can guarantee the carrying out of independent advocacy work and a proper presentation of the organic movement in Brussels.

To gain a wide number of sponsors, the IFOAM EU Group offers a variety of sponsorship options – there is at least one that fits to your needs.

All sponsor possibilities are summarised in a sponsor flyer, available in [English](#), [German](#), [Italian](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#) and [Polish](#) languages.

IFOAM EU Group will be pleased to jointly develop with you the best sponsoring option with you. Get in contact with us for the fine-tuning of your sponsor ideas:

[LenaWietheger@ifoam-eu.org](mailto:LenaWietheger@ifoam-eu.org)

Tel: +32 2 808 79 91

### Key Sponsor Presentation

#### IFOAM EU key sponsors 2012:

##### ARIZA and ICEA/FECD

ARIZA and ICEA/FECD show their support for the work of IFOAM EU by a financial cooperation with IFOAM EU throughout the year 2012. Their money will be used to co-finance IFOAM EU events, projects and publications and is a highly valued contribution to our work.



### IFOAM EU Sponsorship in Action!



5th European Organic Congress



5th European Organic Congress



Processing Conference



### 3. Events

#### IFOAM EU at BioFach2012

This year IFOAM EU Group will again be organising seminar sessions during the BioFach 2012, 15-18 February 2012, in Nuremberg, Germany. Please visit the IFOAM EU [webpage](#) for more information regarding workshops and seminars. We are also looking forward to welcome you at the IFOAM booth, Hall 1/1-240.

[Click here for more information about IFOAM EU Group and BioFach](#)



#### 7th Organic Marketing Forum 2012

IFOAM EU Group is a patron of the upcoming [7th Organic Marketing Forum 2012](#). The OMF will take place on the 7th -9th of May in Warsaw. The conference is an excellent place for business development, initial business contact and knowledge transfer. There will be pre-conference-workshops and excursions to organic farmers, processors and traders in the region outside of Warsaw.



#### CAP Event Frankfurt, Germany

March 9, Frankfurt: [‘Is the Common Agricultural Policy Rising to its Challenges? A European Dialogue.’](#)

Pre-event on March 8: Speech by Professor Johan Swinnen, ‘The right price of food’

Registration by February 17 to [ifls-office@ifls.de](mailto:ifls-office@ifls.de)

In German and English

Organised by [www.ifls.de](http://www.ifls.de)



#### Pesticide action week

The [7th Pesticide Action Week](#) will take place from March 20-30 2012 with the aim of raising awareness of health and environmental risks of synthetic pesticides, highlighting alternative solutions, and building an anti-pesticide movement. Be part of the global movement by organising your own event, from small, low-budget to big and extravagant, and [registering it here](#)



#### Let's Liberate Diversity - Scotland 2012

Celebrating crofters seeds & breeds, 9th to 11th March 2012.

[Click here for more information](#)



#### Conference on Organic Sector Development in Central/Eastern European and Central Asia

4th International Conference on the Organic Sector Development in Central/Eastern European and Central Asian countries, Izmir, Turkey. 13th to 14th April 2012. The call for papers is still open until 10th February 2012.

[Click here for more information](#)



#### Biostyl - Prague

[Biostyl](#), the trade fair for organic products, healthy nutrition and natural cosmetics in Eastern Europe will enter its 7th year from 20th to 22nd April 2012 in Prague-Holesovice.



#### 12th Congress of the European Society for Agronomy

The Congress will take place on 20-24 August in Helsinki, Finland. The call for proposals is still open. Visit the [website for more information](#).



## 3.2 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	3.2 CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
30 January 2012	<u><a href="#">ERA Conference: 'Fostering Efficiency, Excellence and Growth'</a></u> <u><a href="#">Brussels, Belgium</a></u>		
13-14 February 2012	<u><a href="#">Global Organic Market Access 2012</a></u> <u><a href="#">Nuremberg, Germany</a></u>		
15-18 February 2012	<u><a href="#">BioFach 2012</a></u> <u><a href="#">Nuremberg, Germany</a></u>		
20-22 February 2012	<u><a href="#">15th International Conference on Organic Fruit Growing</a></u> <u><a href="#">University Hohenheim, Germany</a></u>		
9 March 2012	<u><a href="#">Is the Common Agricultural Policy Rising to its Challenges? A European Dialogue.'</a></u> <u><a href="#">Frankfurt, Germany</a></u>		
9-11 March 2012	<u><a href="#">Let's Liberate Diversity</a></u> <u><a href="#">Scotland</a></u>		
20-30 March 2012	<u><a href="#">Pesticide Action Week</a></u>		
1-2 April 2012	<u><a href="#">Natural and Organic Products Europe 2012</a></u> <u><a href="#">London, UK</a></u>		
13-14 April 2012	<u><a href="#">4th International Conference on Organic Sector Development in Central/Eastern European &amp; Central Asian countries</a></u> <u><a href="#">Izmir, Turkey</a></u>		
17-18 April 2012	<u><a href="#">6th European Organic Congress</a></u> <u><a href="#">Copenhagen, Denmark</a></u>		
20-22 April 2012	<u><a href="#">Biostyl</a></u> <u><a href="#">Prague-Holesovice</a></u>		
7-9 May 2012	<u><a href="#">7th Organic Marketing Forum 2012</a></u> <u><a href="#">Warsaw, Poland</a></u>		
20-24 August 2012	<u><a href="#">12th Congress of the European Society for Agronomy</a></u> <u><a href="#">Helsinki, Finland</a></u>		



## Newsletter No 51, January 2012

*Compassion in World Farming introduced Antibiotic Anna to Brussels, on behalf of The Alliance to Save our Antibiotics*

This newsletter exists to inform IFOAM members about the work of the IFOAM EU Group and its liaison and coordination office in Brussels. The IFOAM EU Group is the European Regional Group of the worldwide umbrella organisation IFOAM and is responsible for all matters related to organic farming with a Europe-wide scope. Information IFOAM EU Group: <http://www.ifoam-eu.org>.

© IFOAM EU GROUP 2004 to 2011 Please send any comments or contributions to the newsletter to [communication@ifoam-eu.org](mailto:communication@ifoam-eu.org). For further information contact your national [board member](#) or the [office in Brussels](#).

Editors IFOAM EU Group Newsletter:  
Lena Wietheger, Stephen Turner, Marco Schlüter

Rue du Commerce 124,  
1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Phone: +32-2-280 12 23  
Fax: +32-2-735 73 81  
Email: [communication@ifoam-eu.org](mailto:communication@ifoam-eu.org)



The IFOAM EU Group acknowledges the financial support of the European Community, DG Environment throughout the year 2011. The sole responsibility lies with the IFOAM EU Group, and the Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided by IFOAM EU Group.