

A stylized map of Europe with a light green background and white outlines of countries. The map is centered on the continent.

Newsletter No 49, November 2011

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

4-14

1. News/ Updates of IFOAM EU Working FieldsIFOAM EU Group Internal Updates

- IFOAM EU meets business
- IFOAM EU Group's 5th General Assembly in Brussels adopts new membership system
- IFOAM EU board meeting

1.1 Regulation

- IFOAM EU Group introduces guidelines for pesticide residue contaminations
- Organic feed
- Advisory Groups on Organic Farming (AGOF)

1.2 PolicyCommon Agriculture Policy (CAP)

- NGOs call for a better CAP
- IFOAM EU Group CAP seminar
- Debates on Greening aspects of the future of the CAP
- Polish Presidency organised a CAP debate with stakeholders
- Concerns among EU Ministers and MEPs on CAP reform under Pillar 1

GMOs

- Evaluation of EU GMO legislation
- Independence of Science in Regulatory Decision-Making

Resource Efficiency

- IFOAM EU Resource Efficiency Conference
- IFOAM EU co-organises evening reception on resource efficiency
- IFOAM EU discusses resource-efficient food production with European Commission

Climate Change, Biodiversity, Food Security & Animal Welfare

- Commission intensifies efforts on food waste
- New initiatives launched on water and energy efficiency
- Commission President presents Work Programme for 2012
- Dispute over animal welfare regulation analysis

7-8

8-14

8-9

9-10

10-12

12-13

Quality Production, Food Chain & Eco Labelling

- IFOAM EU meets with DG ENVI regarding EU Ecolabel for Food
- Follow-up on the EHEC crisis
- Commission approves fruit and vegetable promotion programmes

14

1.3 TP Organics / EU Research Policy

- Core Organic research Seminar

14-15

14

2. IFOAM EU Group Office & Internal Structures

- New Policy Assistant

14-15

2.1 Sponsorship

- Key Sponsor Presentation
- Support IFOAM EU Group!

15-16

15

3. Events**3.1 Upcoming Organic Events**

16

3.3 Calendar of Events

17

4. Photo of the Month

- Contact information

Dear Reader

The European Union is now in a phase, where important decisions for the future are taken. Beside the financial crisis are other large construction sites like the new Agricultural Policy CAP 2014-2020 and the new Research Programme “Horizon 2020”. These programmes use promising terms like “greening” of direct payments for sustainable agriculture throughout the EU, “bio-based economy”, “resource efficient Europe”, “smart, sustainable and inclusive growth” and often refer to innovation. However often these terms are not quite clear. Different interest groups might understand different things under these terms. What is really meant with a greener agriculture – more productivity (with a lot of inputs) or more sufficiency of food? What does bio-based economy means – one based on agro-ecology principles and with public goods orientation or one which opens all doors for a highly industrialised and GM-based transformation of cheap agricultural commodities? What is meant by inclusive growth – one that is based on fair economy or a growth which includes all kind of technologies, of which their risks are not still enough known (like nanotechnology)? Does more resource-efficiency really reduce the use of scarce resources or due to economics even possibly the contrary?

Therefore we must remain critical towards these terms and ask questions regarding how this will be practically implemented. Why is organic food and farming not more prominently mentioned in

the new CAP proposals or the new “Horizon 2020” “research framework documents? The organic food and farming sector could contribute greatly with many practical examples and innovative solutions tested on real ground. At the successful IFOAM EU Resource Efficiency conference on the 9th of November in Brussels (see page4), it became clear that the way how we distribute and how we consume has a strong impact on the use of resources and finally the environment. Solutions can only be found through innovative ways of reconnecting producers and consumers as many initiatives in the organic sector do, or to improve the efficiency of nitrogen and phosphorous, improved manure and green waste recycling, the better use of legumes, as well as soil fertility building are key measures, where organic farms have numerous experiences. With more research on e.g. breeding and selection of more nutrient-efficient varieties, better knowledge how to close the nutrient cycles on a more regional level through new forms of collaboration, or on functional biodiversity and self-regulating plant cultivation systems, the efficiency gains could be even much better.

It will be important that the organic food and farming sector through the common voice of IFOAM-EU continues to provide concrete and innovative inputs in the political process and concretization of these important framework programmes. Many proposals for research topics, which the Technology



Platform “Organics” has made for “Horizon 2020” on eco-functional intensification, socio-economic research and the importance of diversity through the whole food chain or another health concept in animal and human nutrition would be beneficial not only for the organic sector but for the society as a whole.

Otto Schmid

IFOAM-EU Vice-President for Research

1. NEWS/ UPDATES OF IFOAM EU WORKING FIELDS

IFOAM EU GROUP INTERNAL UPDATES

IFOAM EU 5th General Assembly in Brussels adopted new membership system

On 10th November 2011, IFOAM EU members from 23 countries convened in Brussels for the 5th IFOAM EU General Assembly. A new membership fee system was adopted, changing not only from a country to an individual fee system, but also specifying uniform fee contributions by category of member organization, thereby also increasing the total amount collected. Ensuing from the improved system, IFOAM EU Group's work will benefit from improved financial stability and clearer membership rules, e.g. the number of votes for membership based organisations has been increased compared to those of companies for example. Next to that, the work programme and budget for the IFOAM EU Group for 2012-2014 were presented and approved by its membership.

IFOAM EU board meeting

The IFOAM EU Group Board met for the second time this year on the 10 November in Brussels, Belgium. Members from across EU member states and EFTA members reviewed the current state of organic food and farming policy and regulation. The main points of discussion included ongoing policy and regulation developments, reflections on the IFOAM EU General Assembly, feedback from the IFOAM World General Assembly in South Korea, IFOAM EU Work Programme for 2012, decision-making procedures and issues related to greenhouse cultivation and poultry.



IFOAM EU Group General Assembly



IFOAM EU Group General Assembly



IFOAM EU Group General Assembly



IFOAM EU Group Board Meeting

IFOAM EU meets business

On 24th November, the second edition of IFOAM EU meets business brought together organic businesses and IFOAM EU Group. Christopher Stopes, IFOAM EU Group President, joined representative members of the IFOAM EU SGOP (Specialist Group Organic Processing) to debate with 14 organic businesses from Germany, Belgium, Netherlands and Poland. This open dialogue aimed to discuss the agenda for the future cooperation between organic businesses and the organic representation in the EU. The IFOAM EU achievements of the previous year in the areas supporting organic businesses were outlined and the future program for 2012-2014 was presented. Benjamin Capsar, a representative of DG ENVI presented the progress of the EU Ecolabel for food and the Commission Communication on Sustainable Food, which is to be published in 2013. Capsar invited the organic businesses and IFOAM EU Group to provide input during the first rounds of stakeholder consultation, which will result in a discussion paper to be published in spring of 2012. In the two-hour long discussion, the organic business representatives supplied their view on how the organic sector can contribute significantly more to sustainable food production and consumption. The meeting concluded with an informal dinner where participants met with representatives from the Organic Farming Unit, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission.

[More information on the IFOAM EU website](#)

1.1 REGULATION

IFOAM EU Group introduces guidelines for pesticide residue contaminations

The IFOAM EU Group has published the first edition of the ***“Guideline for Pesticide Residue Contaminations for International Trade in Organic”***. The guideline provides strong support for organic trading and processing companies on how to deal with this difficult topic. More importantly it provides a practical approach that companies can use to help them in the communication with their suppliers and clients.

Bavo van den Idsert, vice-president of IFOAM EU confirms: “One of the main problems for organic companies in relation to residue contaminations is how to interpret a positive residue finding and what it means for the organic status of the product. In relation to their suppliers and clients this interpretation is very important, because nobody wants to be in doubt about the organic status. The new guideline provides important ingredients for improvement of communication between different organic stakeholders when residue contaminations occur. Specifically the approach of the action-level of 10 ppb provides very practical solutions: in general only in case of contaminations above the strict action-level of 10 ppb, derived from the Baby-food Law, an investigation is strongly recommended.”

Christopher Stopes, president of IFOAM EU commented: “The newly established “IFOAM EU Guideline for Pesticide Residue Contaminations for

International Trade in Organic” is a good example of a stakeholder initiative to solve problems. The organic trade and processing companies are convinced that this private initiative by the sector is far better than new legislation on residues in organic products. The contamination topic is sensitive and complex so it has to be dealt with on a case by case approach instead of setting one arbitrary legal level that rules what is organic and what not. The legal approach would reduce organic legislation to absence or presence of pesticides and nobody wants that. The new guideline, which will be evaluated regularly, is the right way to handle the difficult residue topic. I am convinced that the IFOAM EU guideline for pesticide residue contaminations can be helpful for all organic stakeholders.”

The guidelines were the subject of a special workshop session at the IFOAM EU Group conference ***“Organic processing – Improving quality and environmental performance”*** held on the 14 October 2011, in Lodz, Poland. This conference gave broad support to the IFOAM EU Group approach while highlighting the fact that some states in the EU, such as Belgium and Italy have their own legislation that provides different levels for investigation in the case of residue detection in organic products.

It is clear that the guidelines will be a work in pro-

gress for some time and it will be important to work closely with operators, CBs and others to develop them further.

The guidelines can be viewed and downloaded from the ***IFOAM EU Group website***.

Details of the conference including presentations by speakers in the session on the residue guidelines can be found on the ***conference website***.

Advisory Groups on Organic Farming (AGOF)

An Advisory Groups on Organic Farming (AGOF) was held on November 30, 2011 in Brussels. IFOAM EU Group was represented by a 10 person delegation, along with Christopher Stopes IFOAM EU Group President, who chaired this stakeholder forum. Discussions covered organic feed, wine, imports, processing rules, CAP, ecolabelling, and the Roadmap on a resource efficient Europe and research. The IFOAM EU Group ***“Guideline for Pesticide Residue Contamination for International Trade in Organic”*** were presented by the IFOAM EU SGOP (Specialist Group Organic Processing).

1.1 REGULATION

Organic feed

From the 1st January 2012, according to article 43 of Regulation 889/2008, conventional feed components will no longer be allowed to feed monogastric animals (end of derogation for 5% of conventional feed). Taking into account that there will be not enough organic feed within all the EU countries, the latest idea to prolong derogations is in line with the IFOAM EU position, to ensure that there is time to properly assess and find a solution. The latest discussions focused on the proposal to keep the derogation 5% of conventional feed until the end of 2014. However, the problem remains that the decision cannot be taken this year and is expected for early next year. IFOAM EU communicated to the Commission that this creates many uncertainties and causes problems for operators and certifiers, as between end of derogations (31.12.2011) and the publication of the agreed regulation there will be no derogations in place. The idea to create new regulations applying as of 1.1.2012 retroactively is a good approach in the delayed process. If it would be the case, animals and animal products would remain legally as organic. Nevertheless, the sector needs to look for ways to enable production and certification in these uncertain legal conditions.

IFOAM EU Group's latest letter to Commission regarding organic feed

103rd meeting of Standing Committee on Organic Farming (SCOF) regarding feed was held on the 24-25th of November.

1.2 POLICY Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

NGOs call for a better CAP

The IFOAM EU Group in partnership with environmental NGOs published a cartoon and text in [The Parliament Magazine](#) depicting the current state of play of CAP reform. The organisations called on policymakers to incentivise all farmers to move towards sustainable agriculture practices, protect natural resources and create the conditions for fairer market-based income for farmers. This issue includes a series of articles on the CAP reform by key policymakers, farming organisations and NGOs.



[See Parliament Magazine \(Issue 337, p34-48\)](#)

Debates on Greening aspects of the future of the CAP

A **lunch debate**, organised by the European Environment Bureau and hosted by Austrian MEP Karin Kadenbach on the 8 November, discussed the introduction of ecological focus areas (EFA) under CAP reform. The Commission has proposed

that 7% of farmland would be designated as EFA to help stimulate and maintain farmland biodiversity. Civil society organisations argued that EFA can provide effective measures that preserve water quality and curb pesticide use which will help to reset the balance between the environment and food production. However many MEPs opposed the EFA with concerns that the measures could undermine food production and increase costs for farmers.

On the 22 November, the [European Parliament Intergroup on climate change, biodiversity and sustainable development](#) held a discussion on **“Greening the CAP”**. Speakers from COPA and Co-geca criticised the Greening as being too costly for farmers and pleaded for Green Growth instead of Greening. However they failed to provide solutions about how farmers should be motivated to adapt to more sustainable farm practices. In the debate the IFOAM EU Group appealed to conventional farmers to be more courageous in embracing sustainable practices; and underlined that the proposed first pillar Greening does not provide for more than a slightly raised baseline, whereas strong Rural Development measures, which enhance the environment and support organic farming, are necessary to guarantee progress in terms of sustainable farming systems.

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

IFOAM EU Group CAP Seminar

IFOAM EU Group experts met on 11 November to discuss the possible impacts of the upcoming CAP reform on the further developments of organic farming in the EU. The seminar “The CAP post-2013 – state of the political process and the role of organic food and farming to develop a sustainable, smart and inclusive policy” was co-financed by DG AGRI and opened by Christopher Stopes, president of IFOAM EU Group. As key note speaker, Emmy Korodima from the European Commission, explained the [Commission proposals](#) for the new CAP, with special regards to the role of organic farming in these proposals. The workshops that followed, discussed specific aspects of securing the delivery of high quality food and public goods through the organic regulation; as well as points referring to greening of direct payments and support schemes under rural development in the CAP reform. The seminar concluded by outlining recommendations to the IFOAM EU Group for positioning in the CAP process.



Emmy Korodima, European Commission (left) answers questions from Christopher Stopes, IFOAM EU President at the IFOAM EU Group expert Meeting

Polish Presidency organised a CAP debate with stakeholders

On the 23rd of November 2011, the Polish Presidency organised a [debate on the CAP reform](#) with stakeholders in the European Parliament. During the discussion representatives from new member states requested quicker steps towards equity in direct payments. Farmer’s organisations criticised the greening, while the cooperatives underlined the need for support of producer groups. Young farmers welcomed support for young farmer schemes but asked for improvements. Out of 23 speakers, only 3 speakers representing organisations not part of the “traditional” farm lobby were permitted to speak. The IFOAM EU Group and other NGOs sharply criticised the lack of involvement of the broader civil society in the debate.

[The video recording is available here.](#)

Concerns among EU Ministers and MEPs on CAP reform under Pillar I

A number of debates on the CAP legislative package have taken place in the Council and the European Parliament this month. Discussions have largely focused on the reform of pillar I. On the 7 November EU Farm Council Ministers and MEPs from the European Parliament’s Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, met for first time in a joint session in the European Parliament. Ministers and MEPs expressed concerns about the greening component, its impact on the food and farming sector,

and the need for greater transparency between the CAP and the Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MMF). Contributions focused primarily on the issue of productivity and increasing global food production, with calls for greening measures to be placed under rural development. These concerns were echoed at a recent meeting of EU farm ministers on the 14 November who called for greater flexibility to be given to member states to target measures under pillar I. There were also concerns about the allocation of 30% of direct payment to greening. Other member states welcomed the introduction of coupled support in areas of natural constraint, but some were of the opinion that there needed to be further flexibility for coupled support. Opposition was also expressed to the mandatory measures for small farmers and young farmers with calls for more flexibility to implement these schemes, as well as concerns about the transition period to a flat rate payment system and the definition of an ‘active farmer’. Newer member states also called for the retention of the SAPS system because of its simplicity and flexible nature. Farm ministers will discuss rural development proposals at their next meeting in December.

Report finds lack of EU policy coherence

The report [Spotlight on Policy Coherence](#) by the European NGO confederation for relief and development (CONCORD) on EU Policy Coherence for Development published on the 7 November highlights the continuing lack of coordination between the EU development objectives and agriculture and trade policy.

Ministers express uncertainty to tighten controls on funding.

Ministers attending the General Affairs Council on the 15 November have expressed their uncertainty concerning new legislative proposals for the Cohesion Policy 2014-2020, which could see funding for rural development and other financing streams suspended if member states fail to meet certain fiscal and economic conditions. However some member states expressed their support for tighter controls, with Finland calling for robust conditionality measures and Germany stressing the need for good governance.



New website- ARC 2020

www.arc2020.eu updated its website design in order to better deliver news and updates about the current CAP reform. ARC2020 is a civil society platform and aims to open a space of discussion for broader societal groups in the CAP process. IFOAM EU Group is part of the ARC civil society platform.

FoodSovCap produces video of vision for the CAP

The European movement for Food Sovereignty and another Common Agricultural Policy (FoodSovCap) has produced a [4-minute video](#) about changing the CAP to achieve food sovereignty. The video is available with Dutch, Slovakian & Italian subtitles.



Evaluation of EU GMO legislation

An analysis of the [legislative framework](#) for GMO cultivation and GMOs as food and feed was carried out between 2009 and 2011 on behalf of the EU Commission by external contractors and presented on 16 November 2011 to stakeholders. The evaluators found the objectives of the legislation to be still valid and no grand overhaul of the legislation necessary, but controversial opinions were found on risk assessments and management, consideration of socio-economic aspects and contamination. The IFOAM EU Group submitted opinions to both evaluations in 2009, and criticised during the meeting that the reports insufficiently considered the problems the GMO-free sector is confronted with. These evaluations stand in a row of Commission actions following the [2008 Environment Council Conclusions on GMOs](#). Additional to the proposal of 13 July 2010 to allow national bans for GMO cultivation, other actions are expected to be a legislative proposal for the environmental risk assessment and administrative proposals on several - important - details of the legislation.

Independence of Science in Regulatory Decision-Making

An event held by [Alliance for Liberals and Democrats for Europe \(ALDE\)](#) at the European Parliament on the role of science in evaluating pesticides, GMOs and other chemicals was held on 9th November 2011 to investigate in particular why regulators ignore independent peer-reviewed science.

[All documents and speeches are available on this website.](#)

BASF applies for GM-potato approval

BASF has recently handed in a new request for approval for the cultivation of a new GM-potato variety 'Fortuna'. Last year's 'Amflora' potato approval was highly controversial, as highlighted in this new [report](#) by Corporate Europe Observatory.



Photo: Umwelt & Aktiv

Biotech scientists argue that EU regulations on GM crops are too strict

Scientists, linked to the biotechnology industry, expressed their frustration at the CropWorld Global Conference 2011 regarding the EU's position on GM crops, stating that the "EU regulatory regime makes it impossible for biotech companies to produce new products." Hans Herren, director of the Millennium Institute, rebutted stating that "GM crops are unnecessary as they are only tackling the symptoms, not the cause of the problem", and claimed the associated health risks were still unknown regarding GM crops.

[Full article available here](#)

GMO companies accused of violating human rights

The world's major agrochemical companies, Monsanto, Dow, Bayer, Syngenta, DuPont and BASF, will face a public tribunal in December, accused of systematic human rights violations through promoting the sale and use of dangerous and unsafe pesticides, leading to numerous victims including farmers, farm workers, mothers, and consumers around the world.

[Read full article here](#)



Peru to impose 10-year GMO-moratorium

The Peruvian parliament overwhelmingly approved a [10-year moratorium on GM-crops](#) to safeguard its biodiversity and GM-free agriculture. If President Humala ratifies it, the moratorium will be enshrined in the law.

Maize 1507 could pose threat to environment

EFSA updated its [opinion](#) on the cultivation of the Pioneer/Dow Agro Science insect-resistant crop, stating that the crop could increase pest resistance in the target organism, as well as adversely affect non-target organisms.

Resource Efficiency

IFOAM EU Resource Efficiency Conference

On the 9th of November 2011, the IFOAM EU Group, in cooperation with the Committee of the Regions, TP Organics and MEP Martin Häusling, hosted the conference, ***“Resource Efficiency and Food Security – Opportunities and challenges for sustainable food systems”***. The conference came at an important period in the discussion surrounding resource efficiency, not only in Europe, but throughout the world. With the introduction of the European Commission’s recently-published ***Roadmap for a resource-efficient Europe***, all areas, from transport to fisheries, will now be evaluated by resource efficiency parameters.

The overall message of the conference displayed that, though food systems must become more sustainable, reduce the use of external inputs and improve nutrient recycling to secure a sufficient food supply for the future generations, organic farming has, and continues to be, far more progressive in tackling these issues and ensuring that the necessity of food security is established through ecologically reassessing our food and farming systems.

High level speakers such as Martin Häusling, coordinator of the Greens/EFA Group for agriculture, opened the conference with a wake-up call to Europe’s growing foreign protein dependence. “From climate change to animal welfare concerns, large-scale protein production overseas for the

domestic rearing of livestock is a formula which just does not add up, neither environmentally, nor socially or economically,” stated Häusling. “We must rediscover our own legumes.” This was complemented by Walter Pengue from the Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento in Buenos Aires: “Industrial soy cultivation has devastating effects on long-term soil fertility in Argentina. The cultivation of GMO-soya is especially harmful to the environment and since the introduction of herbicide-resistant GMO-soya, the use of Glyphosate has increased 200 times.”

Vesna Valant, from the Cabinet of Environment Commissioner Potočnik, expanded on the Commission’s resource-efficiency plans in terms of agriculture, highlighting that Europe wastes 90 million tonnes of food each year. To reduce this number will require efforts throughout the food chain.

The conference featured various speakers from across the organic and agricultural sectors, and the IFOAM EU Group would like to thank everyone who contributed to the conference.

All conference materials, presentations, speeches and photos are available on the website.



Martin Häusling, coordinator of the Greens/EFA Group for agriculture, Christopher Stopes, IFOAM EU President



Vesna Valant, from the Cabinet of Environment Commissioner Potočnik



(L-R) Erik Mathijs, Catholic University of Leuven; Szilvia Nemeth, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation; Antje Kölling IFOAM EU Group; Mark Sutton, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology; Susanne Padel, TP Organics steering group



Szilvia Nemeth, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation



IFOAM EU co-organises evening reception on resource efficiency

Pursuant to the afternoon conference on “**Resource efficiency and food security**” on the 9th of November 2011, the IFOAM EU Group together with the Rheinland-Pfalz Permanent Representation to the European Union and the Rheinland-Pfalz Ministry for Environment, Agriculture, Nutrition, Viniculture and Forestry held an evening reception at the Rheinland-Pfalz Representation in Brussels on the topic “The new CAP – towards resource-efficient, future-oriented farming?” The event featured a keynote speech by State Secretary Thomas Griese, in which he presented the federal state’s rural development programme ‘PAUL’, which dedicates a significant share of support to organic farming, on-farm nature protection efforts, animal welfare and regional marketing. Speeches focussing on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy and organic farming were given by MEP Martin Häusling and IFOAM EU President Christopher Stopes.



Photos: (Top down) State Secretary Thomas Griese,; MEP Martin Häusling; & IFOAM EU Group President Christopher Stopes



IFOAM EU discusses resource-efficient food production with European Commission

IFOAM EU Group met with Commission officials on 8th November 2011 for a roundtable discussion regarding resource efficiency and organic agriculture, moderated by deputy Head of Unit Paul Speight. A key note speaker of the event, Carlo Leifert from the University of Newcastle, with his speech titled “Can ecological farming deliver food security, safety and quality?”, highlighted the need to re-think our currently predominant farming model in the face of scarce phosphorus and energy resources. In the near future, due to scarcity in phosphorus and energy - with the latter also having impacts on the synthetic nitrogen supply - organic farming based on nutrient recycling may perform much better compared to conventional. IFOAM EU president Christopher Stopes added suggestions on how to address resource efficiency in food and farming systems, highlighting the need to invest in research and innovation in comprehensive agro-ecological systems. The event concluded with a lively debate and was an enrichment of exchange between the Commission and the organic farming sector.



Climate Change, Biodiversity, Food Security & Animal Welfare

European Commission & Parliament intensify efforts on food waste

The Commission's [Roadmap to a resource-efficient Europe](#) identifies food waste as a core area and aims to halve the disposal of edible food waste in the EU by 2020. The Commission has started a campaign to sensitise consumers on their [Generation Awake website](#). The next steps will be stakeholder debates, a best-practices examples publication, a communication on sustainable food in 2013, and the methodology for sustainability criteria for food commodities in 2014. Meanwhile, both the Agricultural Committee and the Environmental Committee of the European Parliament have recently passed a resolution and opinion on food waste, respectively.



Video on resource efficiency: [Generation Awake Website](#)

European Parliament demands measures to protect bees

A [report](#) demanding more research and funding to counter the alarming decline in bee populations was passed in the European Parliament on 15th November 2011. It calls for support of farmer training for bee-friendly use of plant protection products, along with an investigation of GM-crops and monocultures on bee health.

New Initiatives launched on water and energy efficiency

An EU [Cleantech Roundtable](#) was launched on the 8th of November. Instigated by [Grundfos](#), a global pump manufacturer, based in Denmark the Roundtable provides an open forum for stakeholders across different sectors and policymakers to discuss energy and water efficiency within the EU policy framework. The [European Water Partnership](#), a network of organisations spanning across industry, government, and the NGO and research sectors, also launched its [European Water Stewardship \(EWS\)](#) standard to promote sustainable water use in agriculture and industry on the 24th of November.



Food speculation

[Foodwatch](#) published a report recently documenting investment banks' gambling with food and commodity prices "[The Hunger-makers](#)".

The World Development Movement has started a large-scale campaign to raise awareness about food speculation by the UK government by means of an easy-to-digest 14-part comedy series, available [here](#).



Biodiversity Capitals 2011

Five cities were awarded "[Capital of Biodiversity](#)" in an event organised by ICLEI, Deutsche Umwelthilfe and the Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen-South Tyrol on 24th November 2011 for their various efforts from community gardens, corridor connections to tree planting and citizens' brochures.

Organic dairy farming beneficial for insect-flower interaction

An [article](#) comparing biodiversity on organic and conventional farms finds general support for organic's well-known higher species abundance, but also notes that improvements are needed to improve insect-flower network stability.

Welsh rugby team to sport organic milk company

In a [new deal signed](#) on 14th November between Wales Rugby League and Daioni (word for 'goodness' in Welsh), the organic milk producer from Wales will now feature on the Wales national shirt for the next three years.



Photo: [Daioni](#)

Healthy ecosystems crucial for future food security

Maintaining healthy ecosystems is necessary to guarantee food security and sustainability, according to a [recent scientific article](#). The authors argue, intact ecosystems are the only way to counter environmental changes as humanity depends on ecosystem services for all its needs. The article goes on to recommend a number of strategies and actions to implement societal change towards this end.

Commission President presents Work Programme for 2012

President José Barroso presented the Commission's 2012 work programme to MEPs on the 15 November 2011. In [Delivering European Renewal](#), the Commission indicates that it will publish its blueprint for safeguarding water resources and put forward legislative proposals on access to clean and sufficient water sources in 2012. Other legislative texts expected next year are proposals on the marketing of seed and propagating materials, disseminating information and promoting agricultural products, an animal and plant health package as well as a report on plans for the dairy sector ahead of the abolition of milk quotas in 2015.

[Further information can be found here.](#)

Dispute over animal welfare regulation analysis

A [recent evaluation](#) of the EU rules for animal transport has given rise to different interpretations of next steps: while the Commission and COPA COGECA believe focusing on implementation of the rules would improve animal welfare standards across Europe, NGOs such as Compassion in World Farming and Eurogroup for Animals call for changes in legislation to better protect animal welfare.

Important crop relatives under threat of extinction

Wild crop relatives of sugar beet, wheat, oat, and lettuce, among others, have been added to the European Red List in a recent [finding by IUCN](#), posing a threat to future crop resistance and potentially food security.

Soil as natural capital

Soil is of utmost importance for our future, as it is the basis for food security and bears potential for climate change mitigation, were messages brought forward on the conference ["Soil as natural capital"](#) held by Czech Member of European Parliament Pavel Poc on 23rd November 2011. The importance of the soil directive, currently blocked in the Council, was underlined, as it addresses areas which the CAP is not directly responsible for.

EU Agriculture and Fishery Statistics

The numbers from 2009-2010 on agriculture and fisheries are now available in [Eurostat's pocketbook](#).

India - BioFach's country of the year

A highlight of next year's BioFach will be India. Find an interview with cooperating partner Sanjay Dave from APEDA [here](#).

Natura 2000 network grows further

166 new sites were added to the [Natura 2000](#) register in 16 EU-countries to further strengthen biodiversity protection as part of the EU's 2020 biodiversity targets.

Pollination's impact on nutrients in human food

The importance of animals for pollination is a well-known fact in science, but the fact that crops containing micronutrients, essential for human health, are largely dependent on animal pollination was not so well-documented; a [recent study](#) sheds light on this issue.

Virtuous circles the key to climate change and food security

An inspiring new book by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), titled ["Virtuous circles: values, systems and sustainability"](#) calls for a paradigm shift from linear to cyclical thinking and illuminates the way forward towards sustainable systems.

Quality Production, Food Chain & Eco Labelling

Communication on sustainable food

In its recently published [Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe](#), the European Commission addressed the food and drink value chain as a key sector to improve resource efficiency and food security at a global level. This has to be realised through resource efficient production techniques, reduced food waste throughout the whole chain and sustainable food choices. The Commission will further assess these measures in a communication on sustainable food to be sent out by 2013. IFOAM EU Group will take part in the development process of the communication on sustainable food and invited DG ENVI to have a comprehensive examination of the organic sector and the contributions it can offer for a resource efficient Europe. This communication has to be established through a holistic approach, consulting experts at all levels of the food chain and performing impact assessments on all the possible proposals for a more resource efficient food chain.

US Protects organic farming measures in 2012 Farm Bill

The 2008 United States Farm Bill expires in September 2012, with the 2012 Farm Bill replacing it. Many Americans support provisions related to domestic organic farming in the bill, including the Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF). The Farm Bill is the primary source of federal agricultural laws, and must be passed by Congress, but lobbyists and consumers who voice their demands often have an impact on the bill's policies. [Full article here](#)

IFOAM EU meets with DG ENVI regarding EU Ecolabel for Food

On November 9th, a delegation from IFOAM EU Group, including Christopher Stopes, IFOAM EU President, met with Pavel Misiga and Benjamin Caspar from the unit of Sustainable Production and Consumption of DG Environment (DG ENVI). IFOAM EU took this opportunity to express their concerns about the EU Ecolabel for Food, backed with the ambiguous outcomes of a [recent feasibility study](#) on this topic and referring to former IFOAM EU letters ([1/2/3](#)) on Ecolabelling to the Commission. IFOAM EU Group stressed that it is clearly against ecolabelling for food and works towards increasing the ecological performance of the whole chain of organic food production and trade. DG ENVI stressed that they do not want to undermine the organic sector through extending the scope of the Ecolabel. DG ENVI recognises the expertise and pioneering role of the organic sector in sustainable food production, especially on the level of agricultural production, however acknowledges that there is space for improvement in food processing and trading. IFOAM EU has been invited to take part in developing a sustainable policy that covers the whole food chain, including consumption.

As stakeholders are divided on the topic of ecolabelling, with approximately half calling for the development of ecolabelling for food and half against, and many legal issues related to the protection of

the term “eco” in Organic Regulation and Codex Alimentarius still remaining, the future of the ecolabelling for food remains unclear. Following the feasibility study, the EU Ecolabelling Board (EUEB), consisting mainly of competent bodies from all Member States, will provide its opinion on establishing ecolabelling for food to the European Commission.

Commission approves fruit and vegetable promotion programmes

Following the E.Coli crisis this summer, the Commission approved 14 programmes to promote fruit and vegetables across the EU and in three third countries. As a part of the three-year programme, the EU provides between 50% and 60% of co-financing for measures including information campaigns on protected agricultural products in the EU and the promotion of fruit and vegetable promotional programmes for children. The programmes, worth over 34 million Euros, seek to help producers regain their foothold in the respective markets prior to the crisis.

[Further information can be found here.](#)

Follow-up on the EHEC crisis

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) [published a scientific report](#) on the risks of EHEC and other pathogenic bacteria in seeds and sprouted seeds. The wide distribution of seed lots and the difficulties found in tracing contaminations makes prevention at the earliest stages extremely important. A strong call is made to farmers to be vigilant against the spread of E.Coli and other pathogens, as contamination via irrigation water, manure and soil, pose a major risk, as well as the presence of rats and birds in storing facilities; conditions under which seeds are transported, processed and stored must be tightened. Although seeds imported from Egypt recently have been considered as a possible source for the European EHEC crisis, the exact source has not yet been discovered. EFSA therefore emphasises the importance of greater improvements in the traceability and the minimising of the mixing of seed lots in order to respond immediately to potential outbreaks. No special recommendations to the organic sector were made in this report.

[Further information can be found here](#)

European Court of Auditors question effectiveness of GI Quality Scheme

A [report](#) by the European Court of Auditors on the effectiveness of geographical indications (GIs) schemes concludes that the success of GIs schemes has been limited due to a lack of recognition among consumers. The report also highlights that the failure of member states to carry out regular checks of GI-labelled products means the system could be open to abuse.

2011 U.S. Families' Organic Attitudes and Beliefs Study

More and more people are buying into organic - financially and ideologically. Not only is the market share of organic growing in the US, but also the awareness among consumers of the various benefits organic has to offer, as [the new study](#) by the Organic Trade Association finds.

Starbucks buys organic juice producer

The California-based company Evolution Fresh, known for its fresh organic juices, has been taken over by Starbucks in an attempt to expand its assortment and focus more on health and well-being. [Read more here.](#)

1.3 EU RESEARCH POLICY/ TP ORGANICS



CORE Organic Research Seminar **29 November 2011 Paris, France**

The eight pilot projects of CORE Organics running from 2007 to 2010/11 are now complete. The results of these projects will be presented at an one-day CORE Organic II research seminar in Paris 29 November 2011, together with the plans in the 11 new CORE Organic II projects that are starting up these months

[Please find the programme for the seminar here](#)
[Additional information here](#)

Horizon 2020 Commission Proposal

In Brussels, on 30 November 2011, the European Commission presented a package of measures aimed to improve research, innovation and competitiveness in Europe under the Horizon 2020, a new funding programme that will run, with an €80 billion budget, from 2014 to 2020. Horizon 2020 implements the Innovation Union, a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness. TP Organics has provided input to the proposals specifically regarding research projects on eco-functional intensification, socio-economic research and the importance of diversity through the whole food chain

[Click here for proposals](#)

2. IFOAM EU GROUP INTERNAL UPDATES

IFOAM EU New Policy Assistant

Stephen Meredith has recently taken on the role of policy assistant at the IFOAM EU Group office. Originating from the rolling green hills of rural Ireland, Stephen began working as a policy trainee at IFOAM EU Group in May of this year. He will continue his work within the highly motivated and dedicated policy department focusing on CAP. He joins Rishi Kukreja in assisting Antje Kölling in the various demanding areas of EU organic agricultural policy. We congratulate Stephen on his new position and wish him the best of luck.



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.

Contact IFOAM EU Group will be pleased to jointly develop with you the best sponsoring option for you.

Get in contact with us for the fine-tuning of your sponsor ideas.

Lena Wietheger
Head of Communication
lena.wietheger@ifoam-eu.org
Skype: ifoamulena
Tel: +32 2 734 21 71
Fax: +32 2 735 73 81

International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements EU Group
IFOAM EU Group:
Working for Organic Food and Farming in Europe

Supporting IFOAM EU Group – a triple-win partnership:

For You, IFOAM EU and Organic Food and Farming!

EU Agriculture Commissioner Dacian Cioloș shaking hands with IFOAM EU President Christa Steger.

2.1 SPONSORSHIP

Key Sponsor Presentation

IFOAM EU is very thankful to its financial supporters. The IFOAM EU two key sponsors for the year 2011 are CAAE & ARIZA. Their annual contribution will strengthen IFOAM EU Group by supporting the functional work the group does.

The Dutch company **ARIZA** specializes in processed organic and conventional fruit and vegetable products. ARIZA has nearly 20 years of experience in **organic products** and handles more than 60.000 tonnes of organic fruits and vegetables every year. These are transformed into juices, purees, concentrated juices, blends and compounds. Additionally, ARIZA has a professional R&D department, which developstailormadedrinkconcepts. **Responsibility and sustainability are high up on ARIZA's agenda** and are shared with their farmers and clients.

The **CAAE Association** promotes organic production and development in Southern Spain, propelling this territory to first place for certified hectares and producers at the European level. The association also works hard for rural development, defence of the environment and the sector cohesion at the national level. Since 2009, it strengthened its links to the IFOAM EU Group because they felt that the work and efforts made by all the persons involved in the organic sector at European level, offer important benefits to the society at large. Especially, if we do it with the unity and mutual support provided by the IFOAM EU Group.



3. Events

3.1 UPCOMING ORGANIC EVENTS

2012 Organic Producers' Conference

The **Organic Research Centre's 6th Organic Producer Conference** with the topic "Developing better organic systems" will take place from 18-19th January 2012 at Aston University in Birmingham.

BioVak 2012

A workshop on **breeding locally-adapted organic seeds** will be held at **BioVak** in Zwolle on 18th and 19th January 2012. As input for the event, a survey for organic seed producers is being conducted under this [link](#).

Protest in Berlin – WE'VE HAD ENOUGH (Wir haben es satt!)

On the 21st January 2012, consumers, animal rights activists, environmentalists, beekeepers, farmers will all take to the streets together, to say yes to rural-sustainable agriculture; yes to the human right to food and yes to respecting farm animals.

[Click here for more information](#)

7th Organic Marketing Forum 2012

The **7th Organic Marketing Forum 2012** 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.

3.2 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	
2-4 December 2011	<u>Salon Bio Foodle</u> <u>Liege, Belgium</u>
18-19 January 2012	<u>BioVak2012</u> <u>Zwolle, Netherlands</u>
18-19 January 2012	<u>Organic Research Centre's 6th Organic Producer Conference</u> <u>Aston University, Birmingham</u>
23-25 January 2012	<u>Millésime Bio 2012</u> <u>Montpellier, France</u>
13-14 February 2012	<u>Global Organic Market Access 2012</u> <u>Nuremberg, Germany</u>
15-18 February 2012	<u>BioFach 2012</u> <u>Nuremberg, Germany</u>
20-22 February 2012	<u>15th International Conference on Organic Fruit Growing</u> <u>University Hohenheim, Germany</u>
2-4 March 2012	<u>BioCultura 2012</u> <u>Valencia, Spain</u>
1-2 April 2012	<u>Natural and Organic Products Europe 2012</u> <u>London, UK</u>
17-18 April 2012	<u>6th European Organic Congress</u> <u>Copenhagen, Denmark</u>
7-9 May 2012	<u>The 7th Organic Marketing Forum 2012</u> <u>Warsaw, Poland</u>





Newsletter No 49. November 2011

IFOAM EU Group members at the IFOAM EU General Assembly

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. For further information contact your national [board member](#) or the [office in Brussels](#).

Editors IFOAM EU Group Newsletter:
Stephen Turner, Marco Schlüter, Antje Kölling

Rue du Commerce 124,
1000 Brussels, Belgium
Phone: +32-2-280 12 23
Fax: +32-2-735 73 81
Email: 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.