

Dear members and friends,

On Monday 14th September, EU Agriculture Ministers visited an organic farm in Sweden as part of their informal meeting on climate change. It is great that they could see for themselves a best practice example of climate friendly organic farming, able to mitigate the risk incurred by climate change and adapt to its consequences. Climate friendly farming practices and high quality food production go perfectly together on organic farms. The second IFOAM EU Group Congress will get to the heart of this issue (www.organic-congress-ifoameu.org).

Climate change is a global challenge and must be addressed across all relevant policies. If we are to see real progress, the new CAP must mainstream climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies. Organic is a holistic, coherent and resilient future for food and farming. It can cope with the significant changes on a local, national and global scale that are likely to occur over the next two or three decades.

The IFOAM EU Group proposes to meet these challenges and reform CAP; *"There is a need for a shift – for a real reform that recognises the central importance of farmers producing food whilst reducing green house gas emissions from the food and farming system as well as conserving (ideally enhancing) the environment. Organic food and farming provides a model of agriculture that delivers public interest and the 'services' that society is expecting from EU money."*¹

Consequently, the policy support for organic food and farming, and the justification for EU taxpayers' money, must be based on the public goods that organic farming provides. It must not rely on a market distorting and unfair price premium at the farm gate and throughout the supply chain.

As Marianne Schonning, Swedish Board member of the IFOAM EU Group, said to EU Agriculture Ministers on that organic farm in Sweden: *"We call on politicians to encourage farmers to adopt climate friendly farming practices such as organic farming – and an end to unfair competition between conventional and organic food production. Environmental costs caused by unsustainable farming practices must finally be internalised in the product costs – taxes on synthetic fertilisers and pesticides are an important step to achieve this."*

We must acknowledge the importance of food and farming in climate change and thus include specific emission reduction targets for food and farming to achieve the required 80% cut in emissions. We must ensure that each of us can live with very modest emissions of CO₂ per person as a result of the food we eat.

¹ IFOAM EU Group (2009). A sustainable agriculture for a healthy environment in Europe. IFOAM EU Group Position Paper for CAP reform 2013-2020

In the light of this urgent priority, it is desperate to hear that, bowing to US pressure, the Copenhagen climate summit will not have food and farming on the agenda. This raises the importance of the IFOAM presence at the Summit and at the Swedish Presidency conference, *Climate Smart Food*, in Lund on 23-24 November.

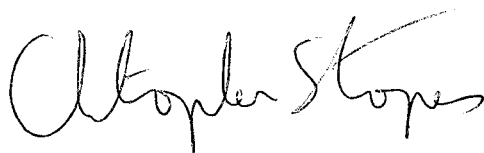
One central and regularly avoided issue that goes hand in hand with emission reduction is the need to move towards a sustainable diet, one that fits with the national and global productive capacity to feed the population. So far it has been too politically sensitive to be addressed as a serious concern. Let us hope that the Swedish Presidency *Climate Smart Food* conference in Lund (23-24 November) will deal with it. We must change the balance of our diet away from an excessive consumption of meat and meat products and towards vegetables, plant based proteins, and ruminant (grass fed) livestock products.

It is particularly urgent that we reduce poultry and pork consumption; these animals leave an unacceptable global environmental and social footprint – starvation and malnutrition no less. Excessive poultry and pork consumption is a massive grain and protein drain from the world's poor.

These are not easy messages to convey. We must find ways of communicating these new requirements in a progressive and captivating manner – explaining how organic food and farming can form part of a new food and farming system for the future; regionally, nationally and globally.

There is an ideal 'fit' between sustainable development, organic food and farming, global food security and climate change management. But organic food and farming is in danger of being submerged in appeals to single issue solutions. Let us use all our influence and know-how to ensure that it rises to the challenge.

With best wishes,



Christopher Stopes, President



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1. Activities of the IFOAM EU Group

1.1 IFOAM EU organises



Second European Organic Congress is currently being organised by the IFOAM EU Group and will take place on December 1st in Brussels. The forum will bring together 200 participants to discuss *the contributions of organic farming to global problems like climate change, biodiversity loss and global food crisis*.

After opening by Eskil Erlandsson - Swedish Minister for Agriculture (EU Presidency), Mariann Fischer Boel - EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, and Christopher Stopes - IFOAM EU President, the congress' plenary session will focus on the *on the role of organic food and farming as a leading model of sustainable food systems*. Distinguished speakers will bring to the attention the potentials of organic farming to contribute to facing enormous challenges on EU and global level.

The plenary will be followed by workshops to bring deeper insight into the *food business' approaches to climate-friendly practices* and encourage discussions on *the future of the CAP and how EU policies must be tailored* in order to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss.

The [programme](#) of the event is already available on the [congress website](#). Registration will be open from 1st of October.

More at: [IFOAM EU – PR – 2nd European Organic Congress](#) and the congress website <http://www.organic-congress-ifoameu.org>

1.2 Latest work on the new Organic Regulation and Implementing Rules

► Organic Regulation – revision of technical annexes

IFOAM EU Group asked in the middle of September for a revision of the technical annexes to the new Organic Regulation 889/2008. In a letter to the European Commission the Group points to the need for reconsideration and update of Annex IX of the Regulation, authorising the use of non-organic substances in organic food, and brings to the attention of the Commission a list of products which are now available in organic quality and should therefore be removed from Annex IX.

More at: [IFOAM EU – Letter on processed food, 14/09/2009](#)

► **The IFOAM EU Regulation Dossier now available in French**

The IFOAM EU Group published in the middle of August in print and electronic versions a translation of its [Regulation Dossier in French](#). In France the Dossier will be distributed by the IFOAM EU members FNAB and Synabio. The Dossier, which gives assessment and interpretation to the new Organic Regulation, is also available from the website of the Group in [English](#), [German](#), [Czech](#) and [Greek](#). A Polish version is under preparation.

More at: [IFOAM EU - Dossier page](#)

► **Competition for the EU organic logo still underway**

Around 3000 contributions has been submitted in the competition for a EU organic logo. Five of those will be singled out by a jury and placed on the Commission's organic farming website www.ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic for public voting from December 1 to Jan 31st 2010. This came out of the meeting of the Commissions' Expert Group on Promotion of Organic Farming on 29th of September, attended by members of the Brussels office of IFOAM EU.

The logo becomes mandatory on all EU pre-packaged organic products in July 2010. All non-EU pre-packaged organic products or those imported from 3rd countries will be entitled to use the logo on a voluntary basis.

The winning logo will be announced in the beginning of February. The Commission reminded that it is not legal to use the logo before 1st of July. There is budget allocated to promote the logo in 2010, linked to the current promotion campaign.

More at: [EU Commission website – organic logo](#)

► **Organic Aquaculture Implementing Rules published in the Official Journal**

The [Implementing Rules on Organic Aquaculture](#) were published in the beginning of August in all EU official languages. With this, a more than a year and half long process of discussion on how to regulate organic aquaculture on EU level was finalised. The IFOAM EU Group has been actively involved in the process and issued series of positions. The Group is in preparation of a debate among the sector to come up with a proposal for further adjustments - in order to contribute to the envisaged review on the Rules by 2011.

More at: [IFOAM EU website](#)

► **Organic Wine Rules**

The IFOAM EU Group has forwarded a first position on Organic Wine Rules to the Commission and reacted to the working paper of the Commission from mid-summer this year. The Group gives detailed recommendations in

different areas (allowed techniques, enrichment, additives, processing aids). Regarding the limitation of SO₂ in organic wine the Group stressed that there is more time needed to come to a good solution for all organic operators producing wine. However, the proposed level of a 50% reduction would be clearly too high.

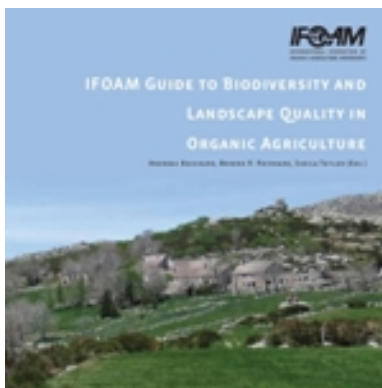
► **Conference on the new Organic Regulation in Rome - June 2010**

The IFOAM EU Group will organise in conjunction with the L'Istituto Agronomico Mediterraneo di Bari a conference on the further development of the new Organic Regulation. The one and a half-day conference will take place in Rome in June 2010. The dates will be confirmed by the end of the this year.

► **IFOAM EU featured partner on Countdown 2010 website**

IFOAM EU Group will be the featured 'partner of the month' on the [Countdown 2010 website](#) from mid-October. IFOAM EU is a partner in the Countdown 2010 network. Find out about IFOAM EU Group's commitments for enhancing biodiversity [here](#).

Countdown 2010 is a powerful network of active partners working together towards the [2010 Biodiversity Target](#). Each partner commits to specific efforts to tackle the causes of biodiversity loss. The [Countdown 2010 Secretariat](#) – hosted by the IUCN Regional Office for Pan-Europe – facilitates and encourages action, promotes the importance of the [2010 Biodiversity Target](#) and assesses progress towards 2010.



IFOAM International has in the meantime published [New Guide on Biodiversity and Landscape Quality in Organic Agriculture](#). The guide is designed to provide practical working examples and suggestions for farmers and advisers who are aiming for real positive change on farmlands worldwide. The publication is not merely addressed to those practising organic agriculture, but is appropriate for every form of farm and agriculture. It is available via the IFOAM web shop at www.ifoam.org/bookstore.

1.3 Policy

► **IFOAM EU gets move involved in the CAP post-2013 process**

A first IFOAM EU Group's position paper on the CAP post-2013 is now in preparation and planned to be launched on 1st December. The Group is also in collaboration with a network of Brussels NGOs that might lead to common actions in the future.

The next reform of the Common Agriculture Policy of the EU - now commonly known as CAP post-2013, will shape the playground for the agriculture sector in the next EU financial period 2014-2020 and might be considerably different from the present CAP. A first Commission paper, putting an outline of the new CAP on the table, is expected to be published by the European Commission in the autumn of 2010. A legislative proposal is expected to follow later in 2010. First round of discussions amongst stakeholders have started this summer.

The IFOAM EU Group aims to influence the process towards a CAP that clearly targets sustainable agriculture practices - with organic farming as a best practice model delivering serious contributions to meeting the future challenges - climate change, biodiversity loss, degradation of soils, scarcity of clean water and socio-economic problems in rural areas. The Group has strengthened its work on CAP throughout the current year.

► **Sustainable practices as organic farming should be mainstreamed**

As part of their informal meeting on climate change, on September 14 the EU Agriculture Ministers visited an organic farm in Sweden. IFOAM EU Group welcomed the fact that the Swedish Agriculture Minister Erlandsson is showing a best practice example of climate-friendly farming to his colleagues.

More at: IFOAM EU – PR - [Meet the climate challenge - meet organic farming](#), 14/09/2009

In November 2009 IFOAM EU Group will publish two documents that will enrich the debate on organic farming and climate change. These are a case study compilation demonstrating the evidence of organic agriculture in mitigating climate change and a guide on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

► **IFOAM EU is taking part in the evaluation of EU GMO legislation**

IFOAM EU Group keeps focus on the ongoing evaluation of the EU's [framework legislation on GMO cultivation and marketing](#) (led by DG Environment) and of the GMO in food and feed legislation (DG Sanco). Within the current stakeholder consultations the Group is bringing in positions and answers.

The last months of the evaluation process, which started with the EU [Council Conclusions from December 2008](#), are almost running out. Back in December last year the Council invited the Member States "to collect and exchange relevant information on socio-economic implications of the placing on the market of GMO's including socio-economic benefits and risks and agronomic sustainability, by January 2010." Members and/or interested people and organisations can send letters and petitions to their national authorities to express position for a GMO-free Europe.

► **IFOAM EU marched for a GMO-free future**

The Director of IFOAM EU Group Marco Schlüter welcomed the march for a GMO-free future, which arrived in Brussels on July 30, and spoke before its initiators and participants.

“Five years after the EU moratorium on GMOs ended, consumers are still determined not to eat GMOs”, said Marco Schlüter.

“The organic sector calls on the European decision makers to take their citizen’s concerns seriously into consideration, to revise the current EU legislation and to make it more efficient in serving the needs of the society”.



Joseph Wilhelm, organic pioneer and Managing Director of Rapunzel Naturkost as well as initiator of the GMO-free march, and Marco Schlüter, Director of IFOAM EU, at the closing event of the march in Brussels.

The Brussels office of the Group joined the march [‘Genfrei gehen – march for a GMO free world’](#) in its last steps in Brussels.

Starting from Germany the marchers walked for 38 days via Netherlands to Belgium, organising meetings in cities and towns along the way and adjoining local supporters. The march aimed to encourage commitment and relentless action for a GMO-free future of Europe and the world.



The whole Brussels office of IFOAM EU Group took part in the event.

More at: IFOAM EU – PR - [Keep GMO out of our food!](#), 30/07/2009

1.4 Research

► **TP Organics**

The Director of IFOAM EU Marco Schlüter and the Coordinator of the [Technology Platform ‘Organics’](#) Eduardo Cuoco took part in the Conference on Mediterranean Organic Production on September 16-19 in Mallorca. They presented the current activities of the IFOAM EU Group, among which is its participation in TP Organics. The TP Coordinator held a workshop to present

the Platform and collect opinions about what organic research is needed in the Mediterranean area. Together with points taken at other workshops, they will be included in the next draft of the TP Organics Strategic Research Agenda.



has already made important steps forward in the first half of 2009 on its way towards a Strategic Research Agenda (SRA). It successfully implemented a stakeholder forum in July with different EU umbrella organisations, SMEs, representatives of the EU Commission, the civil society and the research community. The first public consultation round on the first draft of the SRA was completed and a special consultation for the SMEs has been launched.

From October 3rd to October 11th a new round of on-line consultation will take place. It is addressed to SMEs, industry and of course the TP Organics' members in order to collect understanding on their priorities for organic research and select points to be included in the second draft of the Strategic Research Agenda. TP Organics invites you to vote and comment via the TP Organics' website at www.tporganics.eu

1.5 IFOAM EU in public

▶ EFFAT climate change conference

IFOAM EU participated in the EFFAT climate change conference (<http://www.effat.be/ccc/>), a trade union conference focusing on the impacts of climate change on employment. Thomas Dosch, member of the IFOAM EU board from Germany, was a speaker in the round table discussion. Mr Dosch lined out the potentials of organic farming to create jobs in rural areas and to adapt to and contribute to the mitigation of climate change.

▶ IFOAM EU board member Dorota Metera receives state award

The new board member of IFOAM EU Group from Poland, Dorota Metera, was awarded on September 12th with the Golden Cross of Merit - a Polish civil state award given by the President Lech Kaczynski. Ms Metera received the award - for her contribution to the ecological development - during a ceremony within the XV National Organic Harvestday in Przysiek. This is a wonderful celebration of 20 years working for the development of organic farming and a token of appreciation for the organic sector in Poland.

▶ IFOAM EU meets delegation of agro experts from Azerbaijan

The IFOAM EU Group presented its work to a delegation from the [Agro Information Center](#) of Azerbaijan on August 28 in Brussels. The delegation was on a 3-week information tour through Europe to learn more about

organic farming, lobby work, European laws and carbon sequestration in farming.

► IFOAM EU presented at SANA exhibition in Italy

The IFOAM EU Group was present with a large booth in the middle of the SANA exhibition in Bologna earlier in September. Representatives of the Brussels office of the Group were able to present IFOAM's missions and goals as well as to offer to the attending farmers, businesses, NGO's, and organic-interested public, the latest publications (or information on them) of IFOAM and IFOAM EU Group. The TP Organics Coordinator delivered a presentation during the event.

1.6 IFOAM EU Group/office in Brussels & internal structure

► Board meeting in the Netherlands



The board of IFOAM EU Group met on 24th and 25th in the Netherlands, Utrecht, at the premises of Kraaybeekerhof.

The board discussed some of the main current topics on the agenda of the Group: wine, CAP, organic greenhouse, organic poultry. The board meeting ended with a visit to farms.

On 24th the board had a dinner to meet the Dutch organic sector, an event well attended and graciously sponsored by ARIZA, Tradin Organic Agriculture and EOSTA Organic Fruits and Vegetables, to whom we would like to thank.

► New trainees in the Brussels office



The Brussels office of IFOAM EU welcomed in September two new trainees: Louisa Winkler and Eden Granata.

Louisa has come to agriculture via a circuitous route through journalism in China, research work on the Environmental Sector in Japan, and a spell working on an evaluation study for the International Fund for Agricultural Development. She is half Swiss, half English, born and brought up in Hong Kong. Inspired by a great love of fruit

and vegetables, she would like to go on from IFOAM to study for a Masters in Sustainable Agriculture, and pursue a career in research and policy work. During her six months at IFOAM EU she will work on projects.

Eden is deeply interested in environmental issues and contexts – in addition to her international relations and EU affairs interests. She has a First Level Degree in International and Diplomatic Relations and is currently following a Second-Level Degree course in Politics and Institutions of Europe. She is planning to devote her master thesis to a topic related to the Common Agriculture Policy of the EU. As trainee during her first studies she managed a fair trade shop. At IFOAM EU she currently works as an Administration Trainee.



2. Decisions, reports, announcements concerning organic farming

2.1 Standing Committee on Organic Farming - short reports from the meetings of SCOF:

- [84th meeting on 29-30/06/2009](#)
- [83rd meeting on 13-14/05/2009](#)
- [82nd meeting on 4-5/03/2009](#)

2.2 Commission announcements/consultations

► On-line discussion on EU health and consumer policy

The Commission invites participation in the on-line discussion on EU health and consumer policy. A dedicated channel on the Debate Europe forum is open in all EU official languages from 14 September to 9 October 2009. The discussion channel intends to provide Europeans with an opportunity to make their voices heard on health and consumer policy and share their views with others. The conclusions from this debate will be presented at a special anniversary seminar of DG Sanco (Directorate-General for Health and Consumers of the Commission) on 23 October 2009.

The online discussion is available via the Debate Europe forum at: <http://europa.eu/debateeurope>.

Links to the Commission [hearing on the risk assessment of nano-technologies](#)

- [Contributions from public consultation for the hearing](#)
- [Opinion from the Scientific Committee of Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks \(SCENIHR\) on the Risk Assessment of Products of Nanotechnologies](#)
- [Opinion of the former Scientific Committee on Consumer Products \(SCCP\) on the Safety of Nanomaterials in Consumer Products](#)

3. Calendar of events/reports & other news

3.1 Calendar of events

Time (2009/2010)	Event
October 8-9	Delivering Animal Welfare and Quality: Transparency in the Food Production Chain ., Uppsala, Sweden
November 5	International Annual conference of the Oeko-Institut in Brussels - climate change, green transformation
November 9	BioSoil-Conference 2009 , Brussels
November 10-12	GMCC-09: 4th International Conference on Coexistence between Genetically Modified (GM) and non-GM based Agricultural Supply Chains, Melbourne/Australia
November 23-24	Swedish Presidency's conference on climate-smart food , Lund/Sweden
December 1	II European Organic Congress – Climate Change, Biodiversity and Global Food Crisis Brussels/Belgium Organiser: IFOAM EU Group www.organic-congress-ifoameu.org
December 7-18	UN Climate Change Conference , Copenhagen/Denmark
February 22-24, 2010	Ecofruit , Hohenheim/Germany IFOAM EU is patron of the event
May 6-7, 2010	Organic Marketing Forum , Warsaw/Poland IFOAM EU Group is patron of the event
June 30-July 2	10 th Bioacademy, Lednice/Czech Republic IFOAM EU Group is patron of the event

3.2. Reports

▶ **Environment Report of FEFAC – the European Feed Manufacturers' Federation**, was published in September. The report confirms the sector's aim to promote ecologically intensive livestock production to respond to the likely increase in global demand (caused by population growth) while seeking to improve energy efficiency and reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions. See <http://www.fefac.org/file.pdf?FileID=22145&CacheMode=Fresh>

▶ **Commission's DG ENVI Conservation report outlines slow progress:** grasslands, wetland and coastal habitats face the greatest threats to biodiversity across the EU, mainly due to the decline in traditional patterns of agriculture, as well as tourist development and climate change. Requested under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, the 17-page report is based on the most comprehensive ever survey of EU biodiversity, covering nearly 1200 species and 216 habitat types. See http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/rep_habitats/docs/report_en.pdf

▶ **Joint Research Centre Europe report on environmental impacts of meat and dairy** shows that meat and dairy products contribute on average 24% to the environmental impact of total final consumption in the EU 27, while constituting only 6% of the economic value. The main improvement options identified lie in agricultural production and food management by households (avoidance of food wastage), and are related to power savings. According to the report, when all environmental improvement potentials are taken together, the aggregated environmental impacts (external costs) of meat and dairy products may be reduced by about 20%. See <ftp://ftp.jrc.es/pub/EURdoc/JRC46650.pdf>

▶ **DG AGRI has published a 19-page report** outlining the major policy achievements under Mariann Fischer Boel's 5-year term as an EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development. See http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/publi/mfb/2004-2009_en.pdf

▶ **IFPRI report on the effects of Climate Change:** At least \$7 billion per year in additional funding is needed for research, rural infrastructure and irrigation systems, and crop and livestock productivity-enhancing research, including biotechnology, will be essential to overcome stresses due to climate change, according to a report by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). See <http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/pr21.pdf>

▶ **FAO report calls on the need to embrace technology:** Global agricultural production must grow by 70% by 2050 in order to feed an additional 2.3 billion people, whilst most gains will be achieved by increasing yields and cropping intensities on existing land, rather than production expansion on "new" land, according to a discussion paper published by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). See www.fao.org under "Media Centre"

► **More sustainable CAP needed, says report of Deutsche Bank Research:** Healthy agro-systems and sustainable use of soil, water and biodiversity are key to preserving EU agricultural productivity and long-term food security. Describing the current CAP subsidy system as “untargeted” and “severely biased in favour of the most competitive and intensive sectors and farmers”, the 38-page report underlines the need to address environmental problems and accelerate research, and calls on much improved access to financial services such as credit and risk mitigation instruments.

See http://www.dbresearch.com/PROD/DBR_INTERNET_EN-PROD/PROD0000000000247631.pdf

3.3 Other news

► **EU must step up measures on biodiversity protection:** there is a need to put a value on the services that nature gives to us, and step up measures to prevent biodiversity loss, as this will have far more severe consequences in the long-term than the current financial crisis, states a joint article by Swedish Environment Minister and current Council Chair Andreas Carlgren and the environment ministers of the two forthcoming Presidencies (Spain and Belgium). This joint article emerged as a result of the High Level meeting on biodiversity, ecosystem services and climate change, which took place in Strömstad, Sweden.

See www.se2009.eu under ‘Sept 7-9’

► **EFSA Health Claims procedures:** EFSA opinions on health claims made on foods will be published in stages due to the high number of claims. Even though the original numbers (more than 44 000) have been consolidated and reduced to roughly 4 000 claims, EFSA has required clarification on more than half of these, which is a lengthy and complex process. With this process still not complete, EFSA has signaled already that it will not be possible to evaluate all submitted claims by the deadline of Jan 31, 2010.

► **An organic apple variety first grown more than 800 years ago could be the healthiest** – results from research, published by the UK’s Telegraph, show that the Pendragon apple, which has been grown in England since the 12th century, contains higher levels of plant chemicals linked to health benefits - including reducing inflammation and lowering blood sugar - than other varieties.

See: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/6151010/800-year-old-apple-healthiest-to-eat.html>



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International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements – EU Regional Group

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>

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Please send any comments on the newsletter to info@ifoam-eu.org. For further information contact your national board member or the office in Brussels.

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