

The CAP After 2013: Organic Matters

The Common Agriculture Policy is one of the main instruments of the European Union to align the agricultural practices of the future. While a more sustainable CAP has been promised by politicians since 1992 and some steps towards a more sustainable CAP have been carried out in the last reforms, the bulk of the CAP budget (79% in 2008) still goes to direct farm support, in an untargeted manner, and to market intervention including the indefensible practice of dumping surplus production on developing country markets.

But the next CAP reform is in sight: 2013 is the last year of the current period. The IFOAM EU Group launched its position paper on CAP reform (see www.ifoam-eu.org) last year at the 2nd Organic Congress in Brussels and we are continuing working on our proposals, which will be discussed at the upcoming IFOAM EU's congress "Green New Deal for Sustainable Food Chains" that takes place on June 7th in Madrid.

Organic farming is a systems approach to the production of high quality food and a healthy environment. In the areas of green house gas emissions, biodiversity, nutrient pollution to water, food and nutrition, pesticide pollution, energy use and efficiency, soil protection, environmental pollution and animal welfare, organic farming delivers on average significantly much better results than conventional farming.

"Your ideas matter", promises Commissioner Ciolos, the EU Agriculture Commissioner, who has started an [online consultation](#) on the CAP after 2013. The IFOAM EU Group advocates that organic farming should play an important part in the new CAP. I am calling on you to contribute to the official consultation, open until June 3rd. The responses to the consultation will be fed into a summary document that will be discussed at a Commission conference in July. Complementing the Commission process, the civil society platform "Agricultural and Rural Convention - ARC" invites an [open dialogue](#) on CAP positions with other stakeholders.

Let's green the CAP together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Fertl".

*Thomas Fertl,
Vice President of the IFOAM EU Group*



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1. Activities of the IFOAM EU Group

1.1 New Organic Regulation and Implementing Rules

▶ IFOAM EU is looking for a Regulation Advisor

IFOAM EU Group has a job vacancy for a Regulation Advisor – applications can be sent until 4th of June. The position requires advising and assisting the IFOAM EU Group in its work on organic regulations, in particular EC Regulation 834/2007.

More at: [IFOAM EU – webpage vacancies](#)

▶ „Green New Deal for Sustainable Food Chains”: 3rd IFOAM EU Group congress – Madrid, June 7



The 3rd European Organic Congress of IFOAM EU, which will take place this time in Madrid on 7th of June, will highlight the strategic role of the organic food sector to promote efficient use of natural resources in the face of pressing challenges such as climate change, loss of biodiversity and the economic crisis. The organising team has published the congress programme and opened an online registration for the event.

Details, programme, online registration: www.organic-congress-ifoameu.org

▶ “The future for regulating organic food and farming in Europe”: 4th IFOAM EU Group congress – Rome, June 21 -22

In cooperation with the Italian Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (IAMB), IFOAM EU Group is organising its 4th European Organic Congress in Rome. The focus of the congress will be the future of the European legislation on organic agriculture and food. Operators and institutions are invited to discuss the progress of the legislative framework, to assess the recent Organic Regulation, and propose directions for future changes and improvements.

Details, programme, online registration: www.organic-congress-ifoameu.org

▶ Vote on the wine rules postponed again

The draft Organic Wine Rules were not voted upon at the last meeting of the Standing Committee on Organic Farming (SCOF) on May 18th. There was however a new proposal from France, which includes limitation of SO₂ by 30 mg and a new additive for correction of acidity. It seems that this proposal is

generating majority and the rules might get voted and approved at next SCOF meeting which is foreseen for June 1-2.

Back in April the European Commission prepared a [draft Organic Wine Implementing Rules \(rev.1new\)](#) which were presented at the SCOF meeting on April 26th. The draft takes into account many of the recommendations of the IFOAM EU Group, expressed in previous communications; a number of additives were included and some of the controversial ones were excluded from the list of allowed substances. However, the SCOF vote on this draft was postponed upon request of one of the Member States. There was no agreement among the Member States on the draft mostly due to the sulphites limitation.

More at: [IFOAM EU – webpage on organic wine](#)

▶ **Organic farming of wild animals?**

The Polish Agriculture Ministry presses for fast amendments towards rules for organic farming of wild animals. The topic might be discussed already at the next SCOF on June 1-2.

▶ **Advisory Group on Organic Farming**

The April 27th of meeting of the Advisory Group on Organic Farming saw exchange of views on the situation with the Organic Wine Implementing Rules, the new logo and labelling rules, and the group of experts for technical advice. The Commission reported on the state of play of evaluating the received applications from control bodies to be on the compliance list and the status of bilateral recognition of equivalence with third countries. Negotiations with Canada had been advanced and the SCOF had approved to initiate negotiations with Japan; in the meantime Sri Lanka had also shown interest in gaining equivalence status.

The IFOAM EU Group was represented by three experts and representatives of its Brussels office.

▶ **GMO-free vitamin B2 is available on the market**

The availability of vitamin B2 in GMO-free quality – rumoured to be absent from the market, was planned to be discussed at the SCOF meeting on April 26th. IFOAM EU Group made its own investigation and found that at least Hubei Guangji Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. is offering vitamin B2 which has not been produced from or by GMOs according to the definition in the Organic Regulation (EC) No 834/2007. The Group sent a [letter on the availability of GMO free vitamin B2](#) to Commission and the SCOF members on April 22nd. Following this, the Commission informed SCOF that there is no problem with the availability of GMO-free B2.

There is no need for derogation for the use of vitamin B2, made with GMOs, in animal feed. The organic sector will remain GMO-free and is committed to work hard for the availability of GMO-free substances.

► **SGOP meeting**

On May 11 and 12 the IFOAM EU's Specialist Group on Organic Processing (SGOP) held a meeting in the office of BioForum in Antwerp. The members discussed over ongoing problems among which: situation in national markets, implementation of new labelling requirements, use of ozone for packed organic fruit and vegetables, harmonization of residue norms and procedures. The next SGOP meeting will take place on June 21st in Rome.

1.2 Policy

► **Commission Consultation on the new CAP open until 3rd of June; IFOAM EU launches new position paper and webpage on CAP**

The IFOAM EU Group has published a [new position paper on CAP](#) – which will be officially launched with a public seminar at the European Parliament on June 9th - and a [CAP webpage](#) giving an overview of the ongoing discussions and consultations on the new CAP.

The European Commission has launched a consultation process for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) post-2013. A website is open for contributions until 3rd of June. A public conference will take place on July 19-20 to present the results of this consultation and discuss with stakeholders the future of the CAP. The IFOAM EU Group has already expressed its key demands in a short [first position paper](#) on 1st of December last year. Moreover, it worked out a [common vision](#) on the future CAP together with Birdlife international, EEB (European Environmental Bureau), EFNCP (European Forum for Nature Conservation and Pastoralism) and WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature).

To take part in the Commission consultations, go to: [EC – CAP after 2013](#).

To allow grassroot discussion on the future of CAP, Groupe de Bruges, the European School for Journalists (Institut des Hautes Etudes des Communications Sociales - IHECS) and the network Forum Synergies launched the website www.arc2020.eu. IFOAM EU Group is among the supporters of this initiative. ARC (Agricultural and Rural Convention) 2020 is an open space for citizens and organisations. It allows you to present positions, to participate in discussion groups and create new groups around certain topics. The aim is to come by autumn this year to a Communication of European Citizens to the European Institutions on the Future of Agriculture and Rural Regions and to follow the whole process of setting up a new CAP.

▶ **Second reading and vote on Novel Foods**

The IFOAM EU Group sent on April 29th a [Letter on Novel Foods \(nanotechnology, cloning, GMO\)](#) to the members of the European Parliament. The letter was sent before the vote in the leading Committee - the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, which took place on May 4th.

The committee voted for a complete exclusion of food derived from cloned animals and their offspring from the scope of draft legislation on "novel foods". It also demanded that foods produced with the aid of nanotechnology undergo a risk assessment, as well as satisfy certain safety and labelling requirements before approval, in line with the precautionary principle. The vote in Plenary is foreseen for July. Previous IFOAM EU Group's communications on novel food (nanotechnology and cloning) are available [here](#).

More information about the process available at: [EP- Legislative Observatory](#)

▶ **The potential of organic agriculture for climate change mitigation**

Organic agriculture bears a high potential for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Future food supply in times of climate change and increasing energy prices will depend on efficient resource use. Sustainable food security requires changes in food consumption patterns. These were the main conclusions of the lively debate between panel and auditorium on the *Organic Day*, organised by IFOAM EU Group in the European Commission's Directorate General for the Environment on 20th of April.

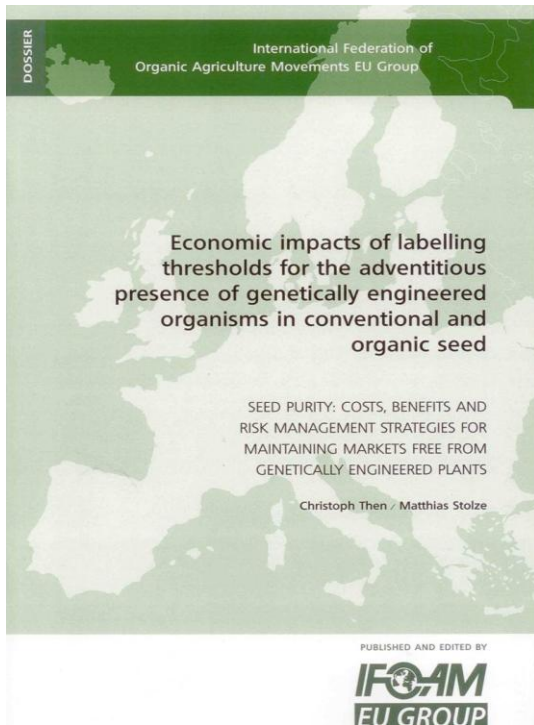
More at: [IFOAM EU – Organic Day](#)

▶ **Green house horticulture expert meeting**

The IFOAM EU Expert Group on Greenhouse Horticulture met on April 23rd in the premises of Biologica in Utrecht, the Netherlands, to continue its work on developing an IFOAM EU Group's position on greenhouse production. The next meeting of the group will take place in Rome in the framework of the 4th European Organic Congress (June 21-22). The European Commission has announced its plans to start working on the topic in 2010 (as of now this work has not yet been commenced due to the prolonged process of approval of the Organic Wine Rules).

▶ **Study on the economics of GMO-free seed launched by IFOAM EU**

Within the EU, the option of establishing labelling thresholds for the adventitious presence of Genetically Engineered Organisms in conventional and organic seed has been under discussion for several years. It can be expected that the Commission will come up with a legal proposal for a labelling regime between 2010 and 2014.



To contribute to the debate, the IFOAM EU Group launched a study on the economic impacts of different labelling thresholds in an event hosted by MEP Corinne Lepage (ALDE Group) in the European Parliament on 26th of April - which coincidentally happened on the day when new cases of GMO contamination in maize seed became public in Germany. The authors Christoph Then from [Testbiotech](#) and Matthias Stolze, [FibL](#), presented the study, referring to the most recent case - Triffid Flax - where seed contamination caused tremendous costs for operators throughout the food chain.

The study is free for download at: [IFOAM EU – Economic impacts of GMO labelling thresholds for conventional and organic seed](#)

► **Taste biodiversity: how biodiversity is feeding the world**

IFOAM EU Group presented its point of view on biodiversity and particularly agro-biodiversity during the seminar "*Taste biodiversity!: How biodiversity is feeding the world*" in the European Parliament on 6th of May. Green MEP Martin Häusling opened the event, underlining that the decrease of biodiversity threatens the basis for future food security. Olivier Deleuze, UNEP, stressed the need to define economic values for biodiversity on international level in order to achieve the goal to halt biodiversity loss. Bob Brac from BEDE gave an example from Senegal where farmers are threatened in their right to maintain their own plant varieties by laws favouring the commercial interest of seed companies, while Antje Kölling from the IFOAM EU Group stressed the fact that also within the European Union there is a strong need to promote the availability of animal and plant genetic resources as well as to facilitate market access for organic and locally adapted plant varieties.

► **Where the food comes from**

The IFOAM EU Group participated in the seminar "*Redesigning EU Quality Schemes – Opportunities for Agro-food Sector*" that was held in the Czech Permanent Representation in Brussels on 5th of May, stressing the fact that organic is the labelling scheme with the most comprehensive set of sustainability criteria and should therefore play a particular role. Furthermore, IFOAM EU stated that rules for the labelling of origin must be

coherent in EU legislation, regarding the rules for Protected Geographic Indications as well as for organic food. *Find more information about the event on: www.mzv.cz*

1.3 IFOAM EU in Public

► IFOAM EU at this year's Organic Marketing Forum

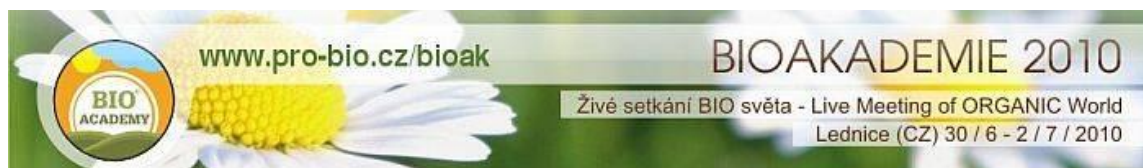


The importance of Central and Eastern Europe's role as a business market for organic products, on one hand, and as a provider of organic raw materials and high-quality organic food, on the other hand, is continuously increasing. The 5th Organic Marketing Forum (OMF) on May 6-7 in Warsaw outlined this development within an audience of around 380 participants and 60 exhibitors from approximately 30 countries. It was noted that the appreciation on the part of the politicians for the sector has grown. Within the forum this was illustrated by the participation of the Vice Ministers of Agriculture of Poland and the Czech Republic.

IFOAM EU Group as a patron of this event was represented by its Director Marco Schlueter and Andrzej Szeremeta, Food Legislation Coordinator. Marco Schlueter gave an opening speech and took part in the workshop on GMO. Later he also met with Polish members of IFOAM EU.

More at: Organic Marketing Forum 2010

► Bioacademy to take place in Lednice – now for 10th time



Bioacademy – an already well-established annual event in the agendas of organic producers, researchers, business people, government representatives and NGOs - will have this year its 10th anniversary. It expects to gather between 30th of June and 2nd of July 2010 participants from more than 20 countries, mostly from Central and East Europe and Asia. Beside of promising celebration programme for its 10th anniversary, Bioacademy offers now a new event structure, dominated by the divide between two main themes:

- Agriculture policy and organic farming in EU after 2013 - is the only concern money?

- Credibility and Fraud in Organic Farming

For its 10th anniversary Bioacademy can offer special support for transport and accommodation to participants coming from non-EU countries and from some of new EU countries - Bulgaria, Romania and the Baltic states. If you want to attend Bioacademy 2010 and use this support coming from [Avalon Foundation](#), you need to register for the event at the [Bioacademy website](#) and then fill in the Avalon support application form downloadable from http://bio.bespin.cz/en:viza_podpora.

More: you can find all necessary information at the website of Bioacademy 2010: www.pro-bio.cz/bioak

► **IFOAM EU at Green Week and Bio Week**

IFOAM EU will not miss the opportunity to present the benefits of organic for the environment at this years' [Green Week](#) (June 1-4) of the European Commission. The event, which is regarded as the largest annual conference on European Environmental Policy, focuses this year on biodiversity. IFOAM EU will also be present during Bio Week's events in the European Parliament and the Committee of Regions. The [Bio Week](#) (June 5-13) is organised annually by the IFOAM EU member BioForum.

1.4 IFOAM EU Group/office in Brussels & internal structure

IFOAM EU Group is in process of selection of a Project Coordinator (application period closed) and a Regulation Advisor (application deadline prolonged to June 4th).

In April the Brussels office of the Group welcomed two new trainees. Lasma Ozola is finishing her Master studies on "Organic Food Chain Management" at the University of Hohenheim. Lasma's main working areas in IFOAM EU are assisting in developing TP Organics and organising events. Rishi Kukreja is soon to finish his studies in Wageningen University. In IFOAM EU he is supporting the Policy Coordinator with work on CAP, GMO, environmental effects of agriculture and other issues.

2. Decisions, links, reports, announcements concerning organic farming

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

- [90th meeting on 26/04/2010](#)
- [89th meeting on 1/03/2010](#)

- [88th meeting on 14-15/12/2009](#)

2.2 Links, reports, announcements

- ▶ **Organic Edunet Web Portal** - <http://portal.organic-edunet.eu>

This newly-launched portal aims to serve as an online point of reference for searching, finding and accessing quality digital content related to organic agriculture, agro-ecology and other sustainable agriculture and environmental education topics. It can be used to find academic articles, school resources, educational scenarios, multimedia content. The site is currently operating in seven languages (English, Greek, German, Hungarian, Romanian, Estonian and Norwegian).

- ▶ **Revised list of EU control bodies and authorities** can be now seen on the European [Commission webpage for promotion of organic farming](#) under the section "Code numbers of control bodies and control authorities". For the moment only the English version is online.

3. Calendar of events and other news

3.1 Calendar of events

Date (2010)	Event
New date June 7	IFOAM EU conference in Madrid: "New Green Deal for Sustainable Food Chains - Save Climate and Biodiversity – careful use of resources and creation of green organic jobs in the food sector" www.organic-congress-ifoameu.org
June 15-16	SusCon 2010 - International Conference on Sustainable Business and Consumption: Biodiversity - A Strategic Value in a Greening Economy , Nuremberg/Germany
June 21-22	IFOAM EU conference in Rome - in conjunction with IAMB: Evaluation of the first year's performance of the EU Regulation for Organic Food and Farming (EC 834/2007) www.organic-congress-ifoameu.org
June 25-27	Sustainable Foods Summit , Amsterdam/the Netherlands
June 30 – July 2	Bioacademy 2010 , Lednice/Czech Republic

	IFOAM EU Group is patron of the event
July 4-7	<u>9th European IFSA Symposium - Building Sustainable Rural Future: The Added Value of Systems Approaches in Times of Change and Uncertainty,</u> Vienna/Austria
August 22-27	<u>Symposium of the 28th International Horticulture Congress on Organic Horticulture: Productivity and Sustainability,</u> Lisbon/Portugal
September 3-6	<u>International Conference in Landscape Ecology,</u> Brno/Czech Republic
September 9-12	<u>SANA 2010 - 22nd International Exhibition of Natural Products,</u> Bologna/Italy
September 16-17	<u>OrganicEdunet conference,</u> Budapest/Hungary

3.2 Other news

▶ **The new EU Agriculture Commissioner highlights transparency of CAP:** the distribution of direct payments will have to become more “equitable and transparent”, but “equitable” does not mean “equal”, the new EU Agriculture Commissioner Dacian Ciolos stated during a visit to the Baltic states in the end of April. Commissioner Ciolos was also keen to emphasise that it is unrealistic for Member States to think that a flat rate payment will apply from 2014 onwards, recalling the need to establish objective criteria to underpin direct payments. Meanwhile, under EU transparency rules, Member State Agriculture Ministries were obliged to publish detailed figures on recipients of CAP funds by midnight of April 30.

CAP funding recipients: www.ec.europa.eu/agriculture/funding/index_en.htm

▶ **25 Member States confirm participation in school fruit scheme, Finland and Sweden confirm to stay out.** The scheme was agreed by the EU Agriculture Ministers in November 2008 with the aim to provide fruit and vegetables to school children from the start of the school year. It also requires participating Member States to engage in educational and awareness-raising initiatives on healthy eating, as well as the sharing of best practice. Recent Commission figures reveal that some 22 million children in the EU are overweight, with more than 5 million of these classified as obese - a figure that is expected to rise by 400 000 every year. The school fruit scheme is based on EU financing (90 million for the 2010/2011 school year) to be matched by national and private funds.

▶ **EU to follow resource efficiency policy:** the Commission is preparing concrete plans for a resource efficiency policy for 2011 aiming to adjust relative prices to reflect the true value of resources, according to the EU Environment Commissioner Janez Potocnik. Addressing the European Parliament Environmental Committee on April 7th, Potocnik stated that he was looking into measures to create the economic conditions that will incentivise a reduction in the demand for natural resources, in particular by ensuring that the environmental footprints of products are taken into account through a life-cycle approach. Highlighting resource efficiency as one of the 7 flagship initiatives under the *Europe 2020* strategy for sustainable growth and jobs, he also stressed the need to increase demand for green technologies through public procurement.

▶ **Intensive farming, deforestation and over-fishing as the most important threats to biodiversity,** according to a *Eurobarometer* survey of the public opinion in Europe. Roughly a fifth of respondents select these three reasons as the most important threats to biodiversity. Among the 27 000 EU citizens selected randomly, between Feb 8-12 this year, more than 8 in 10 respondents felt that biodiversity loss was a *very* or *fairly* serious problem at national, EU and global levels. Meanwhile, some 38% of those asked knew what the term biodiversity meant, whilst another 28% had heard of it but did not know its meaning. In terms of a policy direction to protect against future biodiversity loss, the largest proportion of EU citizens (30%) selected the introduction of stricter regulations for economic sectors that impact on nature. See http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

▶ **Friends of the Earth has published report on measuring resource use:** the report calls for Europe to measure the use of its resources - not just materials, but also land, water and carbon footprints - and to incorporate resource use measurement in impact assessment. *Find the report at* http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefings/measuring_resource_use.pdf

▶ **New US report on trade barriers highlights EU's GMO policy as a serious concern for US exporters and producers:** the 101-page report presented to Congress by the US Trade Representative Ron Kirk together with the 2010 National Trade Estimate (NTE) refers to "continuing delays in the EU's GMO approval process which exacerbates the already substantial disparity between US and EU approvals". Looking beyond the EU, the text describes also Russia as extremely prescriptive, which has had a significant negative effect on US exports. Commenting on the report, Kirk stated that the US should use all the tools to get these markets open to American producers.

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:

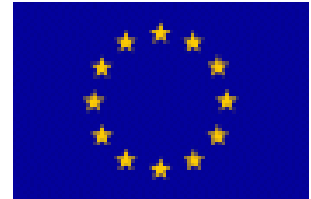
<http://www.ifoam-eu.org>

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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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