

Dear IFOAM EU Group supporter,

Welcome to our Newsletter; we want to keep you up to date with what the IFOAM EU Group has been up to, I would like to thank you for your active support, shown by reading our Newsletter and much more besides! The [IFOAM EU Group website](#) is the best place to look for the latest news.

We have had a busy time. The IFOAM EU Group works hard; this Newsletter gives you a snapshot of what is going on. You will see how our Team in Brussels works with our Board, our members and all our stakeholders for organic food and farming in Europe and beyond.

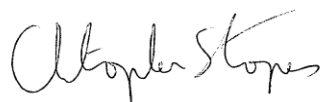
Our canvas is broad, perhaps our all-encompassing vision can confuse particularly when a plethora of single-issue solutions obscure the vital need for whole system change – a paradigm shift. We know that food production and consumption are set on an increasingly destructive path, a path that ignores the environmental, health and social consequences of how we eat now. Our work reveals the urgent need for deep changes in our food and farming system. Our firmly held view is that moving towards organic is a key to our sustainable future – and many share this view.

In the day-to-day world of the IFOAM EU Group outlined in this Newsletter and generously supported by our members, sponsors and the DG Environment through a Life+ grant, I would like to highlight the following:

- **Keeping our organic food and organic farming systems GM free** - a desperate struggle in the face of the almost universal contamination in the conventional food and feed chain, the result of a woefully inadequate legal regime that has handed power to the biggest corporate interests in the world;
- **Pushing for CAP reform in line with an organic future** – we need CAP reform that builds on organic food and farming as a cost-effective way to deliver the public goods that all society demands;
- **R&D for organic, the success of TP Organics** – a new way to encourage the flowering of innovation through well targeted research and development;
- **Working towards viable organic regulation** – making sure that the new EU regulation, and the new EU-logo make sense and don't work against organic farmers, producers, organic food quality and authenticity;
- **Supporting the development of detailed rules for processing of organic meat & making organic wine** – rules that take account of the needs of a diverse organic food and farming community throughout Europe;

If you want a vivid reason why we are on the right track, watch the IFOAM EU Group supported film [Pig Business – Time for Change](#). It is a shocking film that, like [Food Inc](#), lays bare the twisted and dangerously irrelevant food and farming system that we have created. Our job is to offer a viable solution for the future!

Keep in touch; please support our work,



/Christopher Stopes, President/



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Activities of the IFOAM EU Group	3
1.1 Organic Regulation 834/07 and Implementing Rules	3
▶ IFOAM EU issues position on poultry production	3
▶ IFOAM EU demands cautious re-examination of nitrate, SO ₂ and HCl	3
▶ The Commission appointed expert group on organic farming	3
▶ Greenhouse production rules	3
1.2 Policy	4
▶ GMO-free Europe conference 2010: regions and farmers call on Commissioner Dalli for the right to stay contamination free	4
▶ IFOAM EU at biodiversity conference of the Belgian presidency	5
▶ IFOAM EU contributes to "ARC Communication of Civil Society to EU Institutions"	5
▶ IFOAM EU Group supports "Pig Business – Time for Change"	6
▶ IFOAM EU becomes partner in "ECO QUALIFY for EQF"	6
▶ Animal welfare education	6
▶ IFOAM EU meets next generation of organic farmers	7
▶ ENOAS Turkey 2010 August 23-29 - "Sowing the Seeds of Sustainability in the Land of Diversity"	7
▶ IFOAM EU "Company of the month" – Yogi tea	8
1.3 TP Organics	9
1.4 IFOAM EU Group/office in Brussels & internal structure	9
▶ Call for trainees for the IFOAM EU Group office	9
▶ New Regulation Advisor and Head of Communications at IFOAM EU	9
2. Decisions, links and reports concerning organic farming	10
3. Calendar of events and other news	10
3.1 Calendar of events	10
3.2 Other news	11

1. Activities of the IFOAM EU Group

1.1 Organic Regulation 834/07 and Implementing Rules

▶ IFOAM EU issues position on poultry production

The IFOAM EU Group submitted a [Position Paper on Poultry Production](#) on August 5. The paper provides IFOAM EU's expert suggestions on regulating poultry production and how it should best reflect the principles that are laid down in the Organic Regulation 834/2007. It also gives directions, e.g., how to ensure availability of organic chickens and pullets and contains a set of proposed definitions, standards and provisions for poultry-related areas that are not yet covered in the existing EU legislation. Revised poultry rules will be incorporated into the Implementing Rules to the Organic Regulation, in Art. 12 and Annex III.

▶ IFOAM EU demands cautious re-examination of nitrate, SO₂ and HCl

IFOAM EU sent a [Letter to the Commission on use of nitrate](#) in organic processing on September 29. The letter insists on taking into account the diverse conditions in nitrate use in Europe in the re-examination process which is bound to be finalised by the Commission by December 31 this year. IFOAM EU requests that the evaluation on nitrate use is made on the right basis. The Commission's re-examination also involves the use of SO₂ in organic fruit wine and HCl in cheese production. IFOAM EU suggests that the SO₂ issue is postponed until the Commission reinitiates the work on the Organic Wine Regulation and, in relation to the use of the processing aid HCl, asks for consideration of the specificity of the gouda cheese production in the Netherlands.

▶ The Commission appointed expert group on organic farming

With a [decision of September 28](#) the European Commission appointed the members of the group for technical advice on organic production. The decision will apply until the end of 2013. With regards to the expert group, IFOAM EU Group has highlighted to the Commission that the organic sector needs to remain stakeholder-driven and not to rely exclusively on expert advice.

▶ Greenhouse production rules

The IFOAM EU Greenhouse Task Force has been working on formulating a position on the rules for greenhouse production and will have its next discussion on the issue in the Netherlands on October 12 during the ["First International Conference on Organic Greenhouse Horticulture"](#).

1.2 Policy



► **GMO-free Europe conference 2010: regions and farmers call on Commissioner Dalli for the right to stay contamination free**

The [GMO-free Europe Conference 2010](#), co-organised by a number of civil society organisations - including the IFOAM EU Group, and supported by important food companies, took place on September 16-18 in Brussels and Ghent.

The Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection John Dalli presented at the opening of the conference in the European Parliament his policy approach to the authorisation and cultivation of GMO in the EU. Representatives of the regions, farmers and consumer organisations, of the organic sector and of environmental organisations severely criticised this approach, expressed also in the Commission proposals from July 13. The proposals open the way to national bans for the cultivation of GMO rather than solution on EU level. IFOAM EU Group and many other organisations stood against this approach as it does not provide a solution for contamination risks, prevention costs and environmental damage, whereas the freedom of choice is increasingly under threat.

Christopher Stopes, President IFOAM EU Group, underlined in his speech at the conference the importance of GMO-free seed and the polluter pays principle to maintain GMO-free food and farming at reasonable prices. The capital of Europe, the Brussels region, declared itself GMO-free the same day.

Parallel to the conference, IFOAM EU held on September 17 and 18 a strategic meeting and introduced its recent [Study on Seed Labelling Thresholds](#).



The President of IFOAM EU Group Christopher Stopes (in the middle) delivering his speech at the 6th European Conference of GMO-Free Regions.

Plenary speeches and presentations from the conference will be made available [here](#).

More at: [Joint PR – GMO-free Regions conference, 16/09/2010](#) and [PR - IFOAM EU – GMO proposals, 22/06/2010](#)

► **IFOAM EU at biodiversity conference of the Belgian presidency**

The IFOAM EU Group took part in the biodiversity conference on September 8-9, organised by the Belgian EU presidency under the title "Biodiversity post-2010: Biodiversity in a changing world". The conference topic represents one of the four core themes that the Belgian presidency wishes to address during its tenure, and underlines the significance of the EU's failure to reach its biodiversity targets for 2010, the year of biodiversity.

The conference once again stressed the role of biodiversity for the mankind and (importantly for the political process) brought climate change onto the scene, reiterating the need for future policies to recognise that efforts to conserve biodiversity cannot be achieved without addressing climate change issues, and vice versa. The event offered the opportunity of discussing the role organic agriculture could play by contributing to ways and strategies to redouble efforts and find innovative ways to tackle the loss of biodiversity.

More at: [Biodiversity Post-2010 conference](#)

► **IFOAM EU contributes to "ARC Communication of Civil Society to EU Institutions"**



The ARC 2020 process, which has been supported by the IFOAM EU Group from its inception, will adopt "ARC Communication of Civil Society to EU Institutions" during a conference in Brussels on 4 and 5 of November. The EU Agriculture Commissioner Dacian Ciolos confirmed his presence for the opening of the conference.

The IFOAM EU office fed comments into the first draft that will be the basis of the ARC Communication. Stakeholders are invited to comment on the draft through the ARC2020 website and to discuss specific issues in thematic working groups.

Please check the website in order to contribute and/or stay updated on the process: www.arc2020.eu

ARC2010 is already gaining good publicity. In a recent interview with EurActiv Michael Dower - professor at the UK-based Countryside and Community Research Institute and one of IFOAM EU Group's ARC2020 partners - says: "The EU's Common Agricultural Policy should be reformed to allow local farm cooperatives to deliver more sustainable food production, shorter food miles and more economic development in rural areas".

Read the full interview [here](#).

**▶ IFOAM EU Group supports "Pig Business – Time for Change"**

Five MEPs sponsor the event "*Pig Business – Time for Change*" in the European Parliament, focusing on reforms to the CAP. These will reflect work already being undertaken by a broad coalition of partner NGOs in the EU. The date of the event will be decided by the MEPs and will depend on the exact date of the release of the Commission Communication on the CAP post-2013 (expected on November 17).

Six short clips from the film "*Pig Business*" will be screened in the European Parliament, followed by experts' discussion with data confirming the negative impacts of intensive pig farming. The event is supported by IFOAM EU Group and Eurogroup, European Corporate Observatory, Food and Water Watch Europe, Friends of the Earth, Soil Association, European Coordination Via Campesina, WSPA Inter-national and Compassion in World Farming.

You can find full version of the film "*Pig Business – Time for Change*" at http://www.youtube.com/user/PigBusinessFilm#p/c/0/cz1_knWUpVk and trailer at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFMnzno40ns>

For more information on how to plan a screening, click [here](#).

For more information about the film, the issues it raises, or to ask any questions please visit the [Pig Business' website](#) or email a member of the team at info@pigbusiness.co.uk.

▶ IFOAM EU becomes partner in "ECO QUALIFY for EQF"

IFOAM EU Group has become a partner to the project „*Integration of the Quality Assurance System Eco-Qualify into EQF and ECVET*” within the ECO-QUALIFY initiative. ECO-QUALIFY is a comprehensive European Quality Assurance System for further education in organic retail. The partnership aims to analyse how to integrate ECO-QUALIFY outcomes into European Qualification Framework (EQF) knowledge, skills and competencies levels. Another intention is to analyse how to integrate ECO-QUALIFY into the European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training.

▶ Animal welfare education

The IFOAM EU Group was well presented at the [exhibition of animal welfare education](#) projects and tools, which took place in Brussels on October 2, at the second day of the [First International Conference on Animal Welfare Education](#). IFOAM EU distributed during the exhibition its [factsheet on Animal Welfare](#) and spoke to interested participants.

The IFOAM EU Group's stand also hosted the Soil Association (Chris Atkinson) with poster on its activities on animal welfare and EkoConnect (Inka Sachs) with a

poster on the [Summer Academy on Organic Animal Breeding and Organic Animal Husbandry](#). The importance of animal welfare education was recognised by all participants in this first international Commission conference on the subject.

See also [Commission website on animal welfare](#) and latest newsletter.

► **IFOAM EU meets next generation of organic farmers**

On August 31 a group of young organic and small farmers from Germany („Junge AbL“) visited the European Parliament and had talks with several representatives of stakeholder organisations. The IFOAM EU Group office met with the group, presented its work in general and discussed in particular the Common Agricultural Policy and the new Commission proposals in the GMO policy.

► **ENOAS Turkey 2010 - "Sowing the Seeds of Sustainability in the Land of Diversity"**



Under the patronage of the IFOAM EU Group and the organisation of Bugday, the annual ENOAS meeting was held in Turkey on August 23-29. The group of organic food and agriculture students, ENOAS alumni and young people interested in organic farming visited organic farms, processing companies and markets as well as other high-quality food production and environment conservation and protection initiatives in Istanbul, Gokceada island and Canakkale region.

Lena Wietheger and Andrzej Szeremeta, both founding members of ENOAS nine years ago, were representing IFOAM EU Group. They presented the European umbrella organisation for organic food and farming as an excellent source of information, also for students and invited the students to consider a traineeship within the IFOAM EU office.

ENOAS, the European Network of Organic Agriculture Students, is an informal network created by organic students for organic students with the aim to enable students from different

European countries studying organic agriculture or having an interest in it, to get in contact with each other and to promote organic agriculture as a valid alternative.

More at: www.enoas.org



Lena Wietheger and Andrzej Szeremeta from IFOAM EU Group (on the sides) and Luc Steinbuch from the University of Wageningen (in the middle) addressing the audiences of the Turkish radio station Acik during their visit to Turkey for the ENOAS meeting.

► IFOAM EU's "Company of the month" – Yogi tea



"The IFOAM EU Group not only works with its members to protect standards and to promote organic excellence, it also provides a valuable forum for sharing ideas and information that helps to underpin our success across Europe and beyond", says Keith Bearden, Managing

Director of Golden Temple (Yogi tea). You can find the company's profile and their product of the month at the IFOAM EU page on [company of the month September](#).

All previous IFOAM EU companies of the month are also accessible from this website. Past companies of the month can be accessed through the ['Archive of IFOAM EU companies of 2010'](#). This way, a long positive acknowledgement of the company, its products and its connection with IFOAM EU Group can be secured.

The next IFOAM EU "Company of the month" is [BELVAS](#), a traditional Belgian chocolate producer.

If you are interested in becoming our company of the month in the future, please contact Lena Wietheger (lena.wietheger@ifoam-eu.org).

IFOAM EU Group would like to thank sincerely for the much-appreciated, generous support of all its sponsors.



Main sponsor of IFOAM EU in 2010



IFOAM EU sponsor 2010

1.3 TP Organics



TP Organics as well as the other European Technology Platforms were asked by DG Research to indicate the highest priority research topics for the next call of the 7th Framework Programme.

In order to evaluate the real research needs of the organic sector TP Organics ran a public consultation (from July to September) among its members and the organic stakeholders. The topics that came up were listed and sent to DG Research on September 17.

The list of high priority topics is now available on the TP Organics website: www.tporganics.eu

1.4 IFOAM EU Group/office in Brussels & internal structure

▶ Call for trainees for the IFOAM EU Group office

The office of IFOAM EU Group has started the rejuvenation of its pool of trainees. There will be open positions in all office working fields, starting from January 2011. All information on the available positions as well as the traineeship context are already available at the [IFOAM EU website](http://www.ifoam.org).

▶ New Regulation Advisor and Head of Communications at IFOAM EU



Starting from September IFOAM EU Group enriched its staff by taking up on board a new Regulation Advisor to add expertise to the Group's work in the area of regulation. Keith Ball was appointed for this position. Keith is working 3 days a week for the IFOAM EU Group from his home in the UK and will travel to Brussels regularly (he will be present at the next Brussels board meeting of IFOAM EU on November 18-19). Previously, he had worked for over 10 years for the Soil Association, in his last position as Certification Director. Keith's extensive experience in the organic sector puts him in good position to advise on diverse regulatory matters and projects for the IFOAM EU Group.

Also from September the staff roles changed through the appointment of Lena Wietheger as Head of Communication. She has already started to get acquainted with the new work area while keeping some of her responsibilities for fundraising and the selection and management of trainees.

2. Decisions, links and reports concerning organic farming

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

- [92nd meeting on 16-17/06/2010](#)
- [91st meeting on 18/08/2010](#)
- [90th meeting on 26/04/2010](#)

3. Calendar of events and other news

3.1 Calendar of events

Date (2010)	Event
October 6-9	9th Congress of the Spanish Society of Organic Agriculture (SEAE) , Lleida/Spain
October 11-14	First Conference on Research on Organic Greenhouse Horticulture , Bleiswijk, The Netherlands
November 3-5	BioFach América Latina and ExpoSustentat 2010 , São Paulo, Brazil
November 4	International conference: Amino acid supply for poultry and pigs when feed is 100 percent organic , Aarhus, Denmark
November 8-9	Annual Conference on European Food Law 2010 : Food labelling, Health and nutrition claims, and other issues on food information, Trier/Germany
November 17-20	BIO & ECO Expo 2010 , Sofia, Bulgaria
November 18	Conference on Biodiversity and Organic Farming, co-organised by the IFOAM EU Group and the Pan-European IUCN office, Brussels
November 25-26	Towards a genuine 7th Environmental Action Programme , Brussels/Belgium

3.2 Other news

▶ **Food prices increased by 5% in August, shows FAO report.** The 5% hike in food prices is mostly due to surging wheat prices. This is the biggest month-on-month increase since November 2009, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Food Price Index (FFPI).

More at: <http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/FoodPricesIndex/en>

▶ **Environment Policy Review highlights “alarming” biodiversity loss:** biodiversity must become a central element of all policies in order to reverse the alarming trends of biodiversity loss, whilst “much more can be done to meet environmental concerns in both Pillar I and Pillar II of the Common Agricultural Policy”, according to the 2009 Environment Policy Review of the European Commission. The review highlights a number of environmental priorities for 2010, including progress on climate change before the November meeting in Cancun, the completion of the *Natura 2000* network and full implementation of the environmental acquis. Commenting on the review, the EU Environment Commissioner Janez Potocnik called for “further EU and national policy measures to make Europe more resource efficient”.

More at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/policyreview.htm>

▶ **French-German common position on future CAP opposes re-nationalisation.** The long-awaited common position was finalised by the two sides in September and signed by the German Farm Minister Ilse Aigner and her French counterpart Bruno Le Maire. The 5-page document is clear that an EU-wide flat rate direct payment “is not justified and does not comply with the economic situation in the EU. On the EU Budget, the text states that the EU needs a strong CAP beyond 2013. Both sides oppose any ‘re-nationalisation of the CAP’ through the cofinancing of single farm payments, and stand together on the maintenance of the 2-Pillar structure of the CAP. Any changes to the model must have “clear advantages for farmers, rural areas and the environment”, the text states. Other ideas include an “envelope of flexibility” dedicated to specific needs (such as sustainable development), the development of “sets of standard contracts” in order to allow a fairer balance among actors along the food supply chain and greater coordination between Rural Development programmes and structural funds.

More at: http://agriculture.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/100914_position_commune_FR-DE_anglais_.pdf

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 2010

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.

Editors IFOAM EU Group Newsletter:

Sevelina Todorova/Marco Schlüter

Rue du Commerce 124, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Phone: + 32-2-280 12 23

Fax: +32-2-735 73 81

The IFOAM EU Group acknowledges the financial support of the European Community, DG Environment. 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.

