



Working for organic farming in Europe

International Federation of
Organic Agriculture Movements –
EU Regional Group

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Austrian presidency

Bundesministerin Maria Rauch-Kallat
Bundesministerium für Gesundheit und Frauen
Radetzkystrasse 2
A-1030 Wien

Bundesminister Josef Pröll
Lebensministerium
Stubenring 1
1012 Wien

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Proposal for a Council Regulation on organic production and labeling of organic products - as of December 21st 2005

Dear minister Rauch-Kallat, dear minister Pröll,

The IFOAM EU Group welcomes the fact that the Council discussion of the proposal on the Revision of the organic Regulation has come within the Austrian Presidency. We know that Austria has always been very supportive of the further development of organic food and farming.

The proposal for the Revision of the Regulation means a "total revision". We do not believe that such an important and complex issue can be discussed in sufficient detail in just six months. It is not enough time to examine the legal and practical implications of this total revision.

In common with a significant number of member states, we request that the current timetable for revision is lengthened. It is vital to ensure the organic sector actors will not be exposed to the risk of unintended legal consequences. These may result if there has not been enough time for consultation and analysis before the new regulation is agreed.

We wish to react positively to these proposals and to interact constructively in the process. To this end, we have outlined some key questions and urge the EU authorities to answer these before taking any decisions. They concern particularly the intent of the proposals, the expected impact on the various actors, and the planned next steps and timetable for the process.



We trust that you will take our deep concern into consideration. We are sure we can count on the Austrian presidency to act in the interest of the development of Organic Agriculture.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis Blake". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Francis Blake
President

Annex

Questions to be addressed regarding the new draft proposal for a new Council regulation for organic food and farming

cc Council working group on the Revision proposal, standing group on organic farming and EU commission (DG Agriculture)