

IFOAM EU Group expresses support for new German/French proposals

Brussels, 24/11/2006 – IFOAM EU Group today wrote (1) to the Finnish Presidency in support of the new German/French amendments for the revision of the EU ‘organic’ regulation (2) and urging further time for discussion.

Francis Blake, President of the IFOAM EU Group, stated in the letter, “I wish to express our concern at the pressure to reach a final decision on the proposal for a revision of Regulation 2092/91 in December. More time and more work is needed to bring it to a successful conclusion”.

On the new German/French paper containing their proposed amendments, the letter continued, “we strongly support serious consideration of its contents by the Council. It shows a marked improvement on preceding drafts in several key areas, though we have identified a number of issues that still need to be resolved. We will be preparing more detailed comments when we have been able to consult with EU IFOAM members – we continue to assert that proper involvement of organic stakeholders is crucial to the success of this initiative.”

Francis Blake commented, “we look forward to working with the German Presidency, which starts in January, to resolve the outstanding issues and to ensure that this new ‘organic’ regulation provides the right framework for a dynamic, innovative and expanding organic sector”.

Ends (Characters 1,295)

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Notes.

1. Letter to Agriculture Minister, Juha Korkeaoja, from IFOAM EU Group President, Francis Blake, 24/11/2006:
http://www.ifoam.org/about_ifoam/around_world/eu_group/PDF_Revision_Organic/Let_Finnish_Presidency_Korkeaoja_support_24.11.06.pdf
2. Revision of Regulation no (EEC) 2092/91 – Commission proposal, 21/12/2005:
http://www.ifoam.org/about_ifoam/around_world/eu_group/pdfs/Revisionproposal_COM_EN_21.12.2005.pdf
3. IFOAM EU Revision info page:
http://www.ifoam.org/about_ifoam/around_world/eu_group/web_Revision/Revision_info_page.html