



Declaration of the IFOAM General Assembly 2000 Basel, Switzerland

This IFOAM General Assembly which represents 284 organizations from 57 countries deplores the recent action by at least three governments which will prevent private certifiers from operating according to private standards which exceed the national standards and which will nullify the value of their privately registered certification marks.

This action violates the intellectual property rights of private organic certifiers. It will also have the effect of stifling the evolution of organic standards. It will undermine the public confidence in the integrity of organic foods and the consumers right to choose.

IFOAM is the organization, which represents the international organic agriculture movement with 690 members in more than 100 countries. It develops international organic standards and promotes organic markets.

*Approved by the General Assembly, Basel/Switzerland
September 2000*

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The 2000 IFOAM General Assembly of Basel, Switzerland which has had 284 participating organizations from 57 countries views with great alarm the decision of the Irish Department of Agriculture to remove the right of the grassroots certifiers in Ireland to operate private certification schemes with their own standards under Regulation 2092/91.

We believe this action is against the interests of Irish consumers and that it could jeopardize the export of Irish products to markets with higher requirements.

We urge the Department to reconsider this decision.

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