

PRESS RELEASE

NEW IFOAM EU PRESIDENT: “NEW CAP SHOULD REWARD PUBLIC GOODS”

BRUSSELS, 16 MAY 2018 – At yesterday’s 9th General Assembly, IFOAM EU’s members elected a new Board and a new President. Jan Plagge is IFOAM EU’s new President. He is the President of Bioland e.V. and has many years of experience developing the organic sector. He has a background as an organic farmer and an organic farm advisor.

Following his election, new IFOAM EU President Jan Plagge said “I am happy with the faith that the IFOAM EU membership put in me by electing me as new President. With its rapid growth, organic farming is already a success story, and it has the potential to transform European agriculture. Organic farming is one of the most successful approaches in EU to address a lot of challenges like the loss of biodiversity, water protection or animal welfare. This should be reflected in fair rewards for organic farmers. With the right Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) model in place and sufficient funding, the organic farming sector could constitute at least one quarter of the EU’s farmland area by 2030.”

“The new CAP has to move away from compensating farmers for forgone income, towards rewarding them for the delivery of essential public goods for all Europeans,” added Marian Blom, newly elected Vice President “The whole architecture of the CAP has to reward green performance and not just single practices. Pillar I needs to deliver results for the environment and a mandatory eco-scheme for Member States but voluntary for farmers as it would encourage all farmers to shift to more sustainable practices like organic farming.”

Ends.

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Background information

Jan Plagge, President of Bioland will replace Christopher Stopes who served as IFOAM EU President since 2009. He is the President of Bioland e.V. and has many years of experience developing the organic sector. Jan has a background as an organic farmer and an organic farm advisor.

The Vice Presidents of the Board are Marian Blom, Knowledge & Innovation Project Leader at Bionext, and Jiří Lehejšek, Foreign Affairs Coordinator at the Czech Technological Platform for Organic Agriculture.

The sector representatives are:

- Sector representative for farming: Thomas Fertl, Head of Department Agricultural Policy at BIO AUSTRIA
- Sector representative for processing / trade: Roberto Pinton, Secretary General at AssoBio
- Sector representative for certification: Michel Reynaud, Vice-President of ECOCERT SA

The other Board members that were elected are:

- Sylvie Dulong, Winemaker at AGROBIO Gironde
- Kristin Karlsson, Member of Organic Sweden
- Virginija Lukšienė, Head of Development at EKOAGROS PI

IFOAM EU represents more than 190 member organizations in the EU-28, the EU accession countries and EFTA. Member organizations span the entire organic food chain and beyond: from farmers and processors organisations, retailers, certifiers, consultants, traders and researchers to environmental and consumer advocacy bodies



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