

International Federation
of Organic Agriculture Movements
EU Regional Group

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WELCOME NOTE

BIOFACH 2019 is approaching quickly and we are ready to welcome you at our booth in Hall 1, 1-451!

IFOAM EU offers you events to keep you up to date on the most politically salient issues. Here's a short run-down of important sessions during the next edition of Europe's biggest organic fair.

On the first day of BIOFACH, Wednesday 13 February, we will have this year's edition of Policy Day themed: "A new CAP for healthy farms, people and a healthy planet", organised by IFOAM EU in cooperation with BIOFACH. At a crucial point in the post-2020 CAP negotiations, EU decision-makers, farming representatives and researchers will present their views on the new CAP, focusing on the newly proposed green architecture and the role of organic farmers within this framework. The panel will discuss also the move towards a results-based CAP and then explore how the revised policy can improve public health, linking to the main theme of Biofach 2019.

On the same day, you can also attend the less political, and hands-on session "GMOs, how to avoid contaminations? Practical solutions for food and feed processors and farmers" in Room Riga, from 3 PM until 3:45 PM.

Day 2 offers a rich programme, where we will start off with a session on "Opportunities and challenges for specialized organic retailers in a rapidly evolving market" in Room Copenhagen, from 10 AM until 10:45 AM. From 11 AM until 11:45, you can join us in Room Riga to hear about "Next generation technologies in organic food & farming. New developments and use cases of Internet of Food and Farm 2020". Then, from 12 PM until 12:45, before having lunch, you can either attend "Seed in the new organic regulation 2018/848", Room Prag, or "Regulatory Aspects of the Organic International Trade", Hall St. Petersburg.

Before you know it, it will be Friday 15 February! Take advantage of day 3 and go for the event that suits your main area of interest. For those with an interest in research we'd recommend TP Organics' Science Day about the Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda for organic and agroecology in Room Oslo from 10 AM until 3 PM.

If, instead, you want to discover more about "Natural inputs in organic farming, availability and perspectives", join our experts in Room Riga from 10 AM until 10:45. Not a technical specialist? Are you more into communication? Come to IFOAM - Organics International's fishbowl session on "Crisis communication in times of food scandals", Room Kiew from 12 PM until 1 PM, and learn from the experiences and the approaches implemented by our speakers. If you are keen to hear about the hotly debated topic of new genetic engineering techniques, you can also join BÖLW event at 12 PM "What does the ruling of the European Court of Justice on GMOs mean for CRISPR-Cas9 and the organic industry?", to which we will also participate.

There are plenty of opportunities to network, learn and get inspired during the 2019 edition of BIOFACH. For more details about any of the above-mentioned sessions please visit <https://www.ifoam-eu.org/en/events/biofach-2019> and follow our social media channels. We're there at @IFOAMEU on Facebook and Twitter: @IFOAMEU.

Looking forward to meeting you in Nuremberg!

Organic regards,
Eduardo Cuoco



POLITICAL HOTSPOT

On a surprise-meant-to-be-Christmas-gift trialogue that took place on 19 December 2018, the three European institutions reached a final agreement on the Unfair Trading Practices (UTPs) directive [1]. In a [press release](#) published by IFOAM EU on 19 December, President Jan Plagge welcomed this directive and the strong political commitment towards seeking to improve the position of weaker actors against UTPs. He added that “a minimum harmonized standard at EU level was needed on the issue of unfair trading practices” and hoped that “adequate collaboration between Member States competent authorities will make sure that this directive is adequately enforced”.

The legislative text was proposed by the European Commission in April 2018 to counteract the fact that “*micro, small or medium suppliers are particularly vulnerable to unfair trading practices and least able to weather them without negative effects on their economic viability*”. While the AGRI committee was lead negotiator in the Parliament, also three other committees – IMCO, ENVI and DEVE – voiced their opinion on the content of this legislation given its importance.

[IFOAM EU published a position paper on the matter](#) and collaborated with other NGOs such as Oxfam, Traidcraft and Fair Trade in order to advocate for a fairer and more far-reaching proposal. The two most contentious issues were the scope in terms of actors covered by the directive and the list of prohibited UTPs. The final text includes most of the points that IFOAM EU had advocated for along with other NGOs, which ensure a greater protection of the most vulnerable actors in the food supply chain than initially proposed. Main points of the final text are:

- The scope in terms of actors covered has been extended to suppliers up to a turnover of 350 million EUR. Suppliers are grouped into five categories based on annual turnover in million EUR (0-2; 2-10; 10-50; 5-150; 150-350). Suppliers are protected only if the buyer fits into a larger category; suppliers are not protected from buyers of the same category;
- The list of prohibited UTPs has been extended from 8 to 15 and includes e.g. short notice cancellation of orders (less than 30 days), unilateral changes to the supply agreement, requiring a supplier to pay for the costs of customer complaints;
- The right to file a complaint has been extended to organisations with a legitimate interest in representing suppliers, and not only to producers’ organisation;
- A review clause has been included, the review period being of 4 years.

The European Parliament is set to vote on the final proposal in the second March plenary, and the final directive should be published in the Official Journal by May, prior to the end of the current legislature. The transposition period for publishing the national law is 24 months; 30 months for that law coming into force.

IFOAM EU thanks all its members and the NGOs that participated in this process with us!

[1] *Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on unfair trading practices in business-to-business relationships in the food supply chain*

1 NEWS FROM IFOAM EU WORKING FIELDS

1.1 Policy

Organic regulation

New Regulation on Organic Imports published

A new update of the 'Organic Imports' Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 has been published in January. New [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/39](#) updates the list of Equivalent Third Countries (Annex III) and the List of Control Bodies and Authorities which operate in Third Countries and are recognised for the purpose of equivalence (Annex IV).

Updates concern different kind of information, from names, addresses or internet addresses of Competent Authorities and Control Bodies to extension of the geographical scope of Control Bodies (it means that they are authorised to certify in additional Third Countries), but also the withdrawal from the list or the suspensions of Control Bodies.

CAP

Work speeds up on the post-2020 CAP revision

The EU co-legislators continue to work on the CAP revision for the 2021-27 programming period, stepping up the pace ahead of the upcoming European elections.

The European Parliament appears to be moving faster on the main CAP Strategic Plans file within the two key Committees in charge: Agriculture and Environment. Following the deadlines for amendments of last December when thousands of changes were proposed by parliamentarians, the lead Rapporteur and Shadow MEPs have been meeting weekly to find compromises on the proposed changes to the Commission's proposal. It is expected that the Environment Committee will vote on the dossier on 14 February and the Agriculture Committee in early March. A vote on CAP by the whole Parliament in plenary would be possible by April, although this remains unlikely. Following the May elections and the appointment of MEPs to Committees, it is expected that work on the CAP will resume after the summer break. The new Parliament can decide to either continue where the current legislature left off on CAP, take parts of work or start from scratch.

The Council of the EU is advancing on the file and the Romanian presidency hopes to have a provisional agreement among Member States by the end of its presidency in June 2019. The Finish presidency taking place during the 2nd half of 2019 is expected find a final agreement in Council on outstanding CAP provisions as well as on the EU budget.

It is likely that CAP negotiations between Council and Parliament will be ongoing at the end of 2019 and continue into 2020. IFOAM EU will continue to follow the CAP negotiations and advocate for a policy focused on rewarding farmers for the delivery of public goods.

Maximising the Common Agricultural Policy's (CAP) environmental benefits by using eco-schemes

On 30 January the researchers of the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) published '[CAP 2021-27: Using the eco-scheme to maximise environmental and climate benefits](#)'. The publication examines the eco-scheme proposal assessing the opportunities and risks of the new intervention as well as identifying what is needed to ensure that it reaches its full potential. It provides concrete recommendations on how to make the most of the CAP's green architecture with the aim to mainstream sustainability in farming, using the Commission's CAP proposal of June 2018 as basis, and drawing on the experiences of past reforms of the policy.

This publication comes at a crucial moment in the CAP negotiations to establish the next farmers support programme in the EU for the period 2021-27. [Read the full report](#) and [the reactions on its main conclusions](#).

The report was produced by the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) and commissioned by IFOAM EU. To follow-up on this report, IFOAM EU and a team of researchers are working on a practical guide on how Members States can design Eco-schemes in the CAP strategic plans during the implementation phase of the policy.

1.2 Food, farming and environment

The European Patent Office re-opens the possibility to grant patents on life

On 5 December 2018, the Technical Board of Appeal of the European Patent Office (EPO) [took a decision aimed at maintaining the possibility to patent plants and animals](#).

This move contradicts the EPO's decision of June 2017, amending two articles (Art. 27 (b) and 28) of the Implementing Regulation to the European Patent Convention to exclude plants and animals resulting 'exclusively' from essentially biological processes from patentability. In line with the Commission's legal interpretation, the amendments to these articles clarified that plants and animals obtained from conventional breeding, not involving genetic engineering, are excluded from patentability. IFOAM EU welcomed this decision as a first step to avoid patent on life in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the [Directive 98/44/EC](#) on the legal protection of biotechnological inventions.

However, in its recent decision, the Technical Board of Appeal of the EPO took a step back, considering that the new article 28 is 'in conflict' with article 53(b) of the European Patent Convention.

This decision is astonishing, as by modifying article 28, the 38 member countries wanted to leave no room for interpretation. That is why the civil society collation '[No Patent on seeds' calls for a moratorium of patents on plants and animals](#)' until the 38 Countries Member of the EPO discuss this decision which is in direct contradiction with their position.

IFOAM EU will continue to follow these discussions which could have serious consequences on the freedom of farmers and consumers closely.

Help us to protect our water! - [Act NOW](#)

The European Commission is currently reviewing the Water Framework Directive (WFD) which is the key instrument to protect water bodies like rivers, lakes and ground water. Since the ambitious legislation has been adopted in 2000, it has contributed substantially to the improvement of European water bodies. Therefore, IFOAM EU supports the [Protect Water](#) campaign which was initiated by a broad coalition of NGOs to maintain the high level of environment protection and to defend a strong policy on water in the EU.

It's no secret that the agri-food sector contributes to a large share of water consumption and contamination. However, organic production improves the quality of water bodies, by implementing sustainable water management. This includes the use of agronomic practices such as crop rotations and cover crops - shown to reduce nutrient leaching and run-off into water bodies. Moreover, a strong emphasis on soil structure and increased humus quality makes organic production well placed to enhance water-holding capacity, resulting in an increased resilience to extreme climate events such as heavy rainfall and droughts.

If you want to support the [Protect Water](#) campaign, take one minute and [fill in the form](#). [Visit the IFOAM EU website for more information about the role of organic agriculture in sustainable water management](#).

Final report on pesticide authorisation published by European Parliament's Special Committee

After nine months of work in the EU Parliament's Special Committee on pesticide authorisation in the European Union (PEST committee), a [final report](#) was adopted by a large majority in the plenary on the 16 January 2019.

The report calls for a more transparent, independent and scientifically sound assessment of plant protection products. It will feed into the evaluation of the European pesticide authorisation system ([REFIT Evaluation](#)) which is currently performed by the European Commission and expected to be finalised in the first half of 2019.

The organic movement welcomes the fact that the report acknowledges the difficult situation for products of natural origin, such as biological substances used in organic farming. Especially the point that data requirements are made for synthetic substances and the need for an adapted authorisation and registration process is very welcomed. Furthermore, the need to research alternatives for plant protection products, including non-chemical methods and the research of agroecological farming methods was mentioned as essential future strategy.

The PEST Committee was established in February 2018 following the controversies of the re-approval of Glyphosate. IFOAM EU actively followed the Committees work and had several exchanges with its members.

Not all heroes wear capes

Did you ever wonder how important the work of organic farmers is in protecting us and the environment we live in? The wide range of techniques used in sustainable farming meets society's needs without compromising the ability of future generations to enjoy healthy food, safe water resources or fertile soils.



Watch [the GoodFood4All campaign's most recent video](#) to see a few of the practices used in organic agriculture that help protect our planet.

Organic farmers are working with nature to grow food in healthy soils by avoiding the use of chemicals that deteriorate the delicate ecosystem. In this way, this practice encourages wildlife growth, with organic farms being home to 30% more species than conventional farms. By using compost wisely, organic farmers are also preserving aquatic ecosystems by keeping them safe from chemical runoff which contaminates oceans, rivers and lakes.



This content has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. It is the sole responsibility of IFOAM – Organics International and Make Europe Sustainable For All partners and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

1.3 EU Research & Innovation Policy / TP Organics

Are you working in farming / certification? Have your say in our questionnaire about anthelmintics

Scotland's Rural College is working together with the Soil Association, IFOAM EU and other partners in the [EU H2020 project RELACS](#). The aim of the project is to replace contentious inputs in organic farming systems, including finding cost efficient and environmentally safe alternatives to antimicrobials and anthelmintics. This will help in providing low-input solutions for organic producers, and in improving disease control methods in livestock. This first step is to conduct a [European-wide survey](#) to gain an overview on the current use and need for anthelmintics in organic farming. In case you are interested in completing the survey in German, please click [here](#).

We are interested in hearing from farmers and certification bodies. Completing the survey should only take a couple of minutes. The [deadline to fill in the survey is 15 March 2019](#). The results of the survey will advance our understanding of the extent to which these inputs are currently used in organic system and will provide a reference measure for reduction actions. Thanks for your participation.



RELACS has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 773431. The information contained in this communication only reflects the author's view.

Organic seed: How the organic regulation can increase production & use and why farmers use organic seed

In the LIVESEED booklet '[How to implement the organic regulation to increase production & use of organic seed](#)', you can find best practices policy measures, information on organic seed databases, and



alternative sources of organic seed. Practical examples from various EU countries help illustrate how the organic regulation, and measures to increase organic seed production and use have been successfully implemented.

In two new LIVESEED videos farmers from different EU Member States explain why they use organic seed. These videos seek to motivate more farmers to use organic seed and to show other stakeholders how important it is that organic seed is available for organic farmers. The videos were produced by LIVESEED Partners ÖMKi, IFOAM EU, BIONEXT and UPV.

Watch the videos:

- [LIVESEED - 100% organic means full credibility](#)
- [LIVESEED - Organic seed is the basis of organic farming](#)

The booklet was edited by RSR, IFOAM EU and FiBL-CH and written by Alexandra Fuss (IFOAM EU), Maaike Raaijmakers (Bionext), Freya Schäfer, Xenia Gatzert & Katharina Brühl (FiBL-DE), Matteo Petitti & Riccardo Bocci (RSR), Tina Kovács (ÖMKI) & Tove Mariegaard Pedersen (SEGES). RSR coordinated the booklet editorial and production process. The booklet is available on the [IFOAM EU website](#) and on the [LIVESEED website](#). The videos were produced by LIVESEED Partners ÖMKi, IFOAM EU, BIONEXT and UPV.



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Call for EIP-AGRI Focus Groups

The EIP-AGRI Service Point has recently launched a call for 5 new Focus Groups:

- Bee health and sustainable beekeeping
- Diversification opportunities through plant-based medicinal and cosmetic products
- Soil salinization
- Protecting agricultural soils from contamination
- Reducing antimicrobial use in poultry farming

[Read the call and application information](#). The deadline for applications is 11 February.

You are encouraged to apply if you have practical experience on any of these topics and would like to bring in the expertise from the organic sector. You will help to identify promising and inspiring ideas



for innovation and learn from others, broaden your professional European network and form the start of new cooperation.

Feel free to spread this call widely among your colleagues or other experts in your network.

More info on the Focus Groups is available on the [website of EIP-AGRI Focus Groups](#) and in the [brochure EIP-AGRI Focus Groups](#).

2 IFOAM EU DEVELOPMENTS

Gain experience at the heart of the European organic movement – Apply to work with IFOAM EU as a volunteer for one year

IFOAM EU is looking for five volunteers to join the team for one whole year starting in June 2019.

- Do you want to learn more about organic food and farming?
- Are you between the ages of 18 and 30?
- Are you legally residing in an EU country other than Belgium?

Apply by 4th of March or share this opportunity with your network on Twitter and on Facebook. For more information about the European Solidarity Corps volunteering experience and application form visit the [IFOAM EU website](#).



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The volunteering project is funded by the European Solidarity Corps programme of the European Union. The sole responsibility of the content lies with the author and communication reflects only the author's view. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.

Beyond the CAP: what does a Common Food Policy look like according to IPES-Food?

“A common food policy for Europe is urgently required to address climate change, halt biodiversity loss, curb obesity, and make farming viable for the next generation”. This was the key message of a [press statement](#) released on 7 February 2019 by IPES-Food to launch their vision and report on a common food policy at EU level. [Read the full report](#).

The vision for a common food policy is the result of a three-year process of research led by the International Panel of Sustainable Food Systems ([IPES-Food](#)) and its co-chair, Olivier de Schutter, former UN special rapporteur on the right to food. IFOAM EU has contributed to this vision along with about 400 other stakeholders, ranging from scientists to farmers and civil society activists.

The report puts forward 80 concrete proposals divided between short-, medium- and long-term reforms. Proposals include a new governance structure to break down policy silos, e.g. by creating a food intergroup in the European Parliament, as well as introducing an EU-wide ‘agroecology premium’ as a new rationale for CAP payments.

Share your initiative that transforms food and farming

Contributing to the transformation of European food and farming? Showcase your initiative at [euorganic2030.bio!](#) To achieve its ambitious [vision by 2030](#), IFOAM EU is collecting successful initiatives and projects that are [transforming food and farming in Europe](#).

The initiatives should be projects and programmes that are not older than four years and that address one of the following aspects:

- Organic on every table: initiatives and examples that make organic widely available and recognised
- Improve – inspire – deliver: initiatives and examples that develop organic further and inspire others
- Fair play – fair pay: initiatives and examples to achieve more transparency and fairness in the value chain

[Submit](#) your own initiative today! Relevant submissions will be profiled on [EUorganic2030.bio](#) and on social media using #EUorganic2030.

Need inspiration? Go to [euorganic2030.bio](#) and find many initiatives from all over Europe!

Broaden your knowledge about organic – join the Organic Leadership Course

Are you keen on deepening your knowledge about organic and developing your leadership skills within the sector? Take the chance and participate in the Organic Leadership Course, taking place in Trakai, Lithuania on 22-29 June 2019.

The course is open to experienced practitioners as well as those who are new in the organic sector and offers you the possibility to acquire an up-to-date understanding of the organic value chain and organic services in a diverse group of organic professionals. Besides being able to build and strengthen your network in the organic sector, you will learn to develop your organisational, project management and communication skills.

If you are interested in joining, please register on the [IFOAM – Organics International](#) website by 9 March 2019.

Saying goodbye to our colleagues - Jessica Vidales Ferro

IFOAM EU bids a fond farewell to Jessica Vidales Ferro who left IFOAM EU to take up new challenges. Jessica worked with the project and finance teams, where she provided great support in the implementation of publicly financed projects run by IFOAM EU. She also played a leading role in writing a winning proposal for the European Solidarity Corps, thanks to which new volunteers will join IFOAM EU in June this year. She provided an excellent support to the fundraising team in developing other proposals to get support for IFOAM EU work. The whole team thanks Jessica for all her work during this time. We will miss her positive and helpful attitude and we wish her all the best for the new chapter of her career!

Welcoming our new colleague - Verena Mitschke

In January, Verena joined IFOAM EU and its communication unit as the new Communications Coordinator. She had initially started working for IFOAM EU as an EVS-volunteer in the projects and fundraising unit in June 2018, which had further fuelled her interest in organic agriculture and led her to stay with IFOAM EU. Verena is a German native, holding a Master's degree in International Development Studies from Wageningen University (Netherlands) and a Bachelor's degree in International Economics and Development from Bayreuth University (Germany). During her studies, she mainly focused on rural development, resource management and climate change, which brought her to Tanzania, where she conducted field research on sustainable ways of farming. Furthermore, she interned for a project initiated by the German Society for International Cooperation in Uganda that promotes sustainable access to modern energy services in rural areas. Her professional background, her volunteering experience in a German refugee centre and her stays abroad strengthened her intercultural, communication as well as project management skills. Verena's motivation to join IFOAM EU stems from both, her passion for as well as professional interest in sustainable livelihoods and organic agriculture.

3 EVENTS

3.1 Preview of events

Join IFOAM EU's sessions at BIOFACH

13-16 February 2019, Nürnberg, Germany

BIOFACH 2019 is approaching quickly and we are ready to welcome you at our booth in Hall 1, 1-451. Are you working in a field related to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), GMO contamination, organic seed, organic retail, technologies in food and farming, inputs and crisis communication? [Have a look at the events we're organising.](#)

Make sure to attend IFOAM EU's Policy Day: "A new CAP for healthy farms, people and a healthy planet", to hear how the future CAP can reward the full-scale transition towards sustainable farming systems that respect nature, the environment and our health. Policy Day is organised by IFOAM EU in cooperation with BIOFACH.

Are you active in organic research and innovation? Make sure to [attend TP Organics' Science Day](#) focused on the Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda for organic and agroecology. Science Day is organised by TP Organics.

There are plenty of opportunities to network, learn and get inspired during the upcoming edition of BIOFACH 2019! Visit: <https://www.ifoam-eu.org/en/events/biofach-2019> for more information about our sessions and follow our social media channels (@IFOAMEU) on Facebook and Twitter.

TP Organics' Science Day: Research, innovation and knowledge exchange - Challenges for the organic sector

15 February 2019, Nürnberg, Germany

Do you have priorities for the next Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda? Are you interested in tools to improve production or policies for knowledge exchange? TP Organics' Science Day at Biofach 2019 will provide insights and opportunities for discussion.

The day will start with TP Organics experts' presentation of the first priority topics followed by the workshops to fine-tune the content of the topics. After lunch the [Organic Farm Knowledge platform](#) will be launched. The platform was developed by the thematic networks [OK-Net Arable](#) and [OK-Net EcoFeed](#). It hosts a wide range of practical knowledge and tools for organic farmers and advisers that can help improve production. The day will close with a policy debate on how to promote innovation and knowledge exchange between researchers, farmers and food SMEs. The speakers include representatives from the European Commission, German federal agency and the organic sector.

[Check out the agenda](#) and join the event.



FiBL workshop “The Contribution of Organic Agriculture to the SDGs”

26 February 2019, Brussels

You are invited to participate in the workshop "[The Contribution of Organic Agriculture to the SDGs: Scientific evidence from comparative research](#)", organised by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) in collaboration with the European Commission DG for International Cooperation and Development that will take place on 26 February from 9.00 to 17.00 in Brussels, Albert Borschette Congress Centre (Room AB.OD), Rue Froissart 36.

In the workshop, the latest research results from FiBL regarding the environmental, social and economic performance of organic agriculture in tropical and sub-tropical climate zones will be presented. The results will be reflected in dynamic scientific and policy panel discussions with leading experts and representatives from the European Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and European Parliamentary Alliance for the Fight Against Hunger in view of the role of organic agriculture and other agroecological approaches in European and international development policy frameworks in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Please [register before 19 February](#). Download the [programme](#) and [flyer](#) as PDF. Read more on the [FiBL](#) and [EIP-Agri](#) websites, and contact info.europe@fbl.org for any enquiries. The workshop will also be [web streamed](#).



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Ensuring an organic & fair Europe: IFOAM EU and Fair Trade will collaborate on European elections

May 2019

In the spirit of their long history of collaboration, the organic and fair trade movements have decided to team up to raise the awareness of candidates for the European elections on the responsibility of the next European Parliament to transform our production and consumption models towards sustainability.

The networks involved, including development organisations and proponents of the social economy, will prepare tools for their national members that they can use to approach candidates and discuss their visions for Europe. Rather than a full-blown campaign, this is a light approach aimed at making possible quality discussions with politicians who are not necessarily “natural” supporters of organic farming or fair trade. This will be a good opportunity for IFOAM EU’s members to cooperate with the fair trade movement at the national level and we count on your active involvement in the coming months!

3.2 Review of events

Biggest tractor demonstration at German Green Week

On 19 January more than 35.000 people marched in front of Berlin’s Brandenburger Gate under the motto “Wir haben es satt”, or “We are fed up”. Demonstrators braved the cold to demand from the German Agricultural Minister and the EU for a reformed Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) that is good for farmers, animals and the planet. The march was organised during Berlin’s Green Week, a high-level yearly event that brings together agricultural ministers and business leaders from across the world to discuss food and farming.

Organic farmers were well represented in the march, coming from across Germany and gathering a record-breaking 171 tractors at the heart of Berlin. Together with civil society organisations they have asked for a CAP that stops support for factory farming and instead uses this public money to encourage farmers to protect biodiversity, regenerate the environment and support rural communities.

In addition to its advocacy work in Brussels, IFOAM EU supports mass mobilisation on CAP under the platform goodfoodgoodfarming.eu.

IFOAM EU’s Interest Group of Organic Retailers meets, and visits specialised organic retailers in Berlin

The newly established IFOAM EU Interest Group for Organic Retailers (IGOR) met in Berlin for their second official meeting on 17 and 18 January. The first part of the meeting was dedicated to identifying



the specific characteristics shared by specialised organic retailers all over Europe, to how to work together, and to defining a working program for the next months. IGOR members are particularly interested in exchanging about best practices that highlight the strengths of specialised organic retailers.

After a lovely dinner, the group was ready the next day to visit different types of organic specialised shops. Finally, the group visited the Green Week before travelling back to their home countries.

The IFOAM EU IGOR plans to meet again in Paris in October in conjunction with [Natexpo](#), the international trade show for organic products.



This event is co-financed by the European Union, under the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME). The sole responsibility for this communication lies with IFOAM EU. The EASME is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.

Mobile slaughter: An alternative to long distance animal transport

On 23 January, the European Parliaments' Agricultural Committee voted on a report on animal transport within and outside the EU. The report concludes that the existing legislation is not sufficiently applied, especially regarding the minimum requirements for animal's fitness for transport and the duration of transport. The attempt of some parliamentarians to limit the maximum time for transport of live animals was nevertheless rejected.

IFOAM EU's members can read the full version of this article on [the IFOAM EU member extranet](#). For more information about membership, contact [IFOAMEU membership \[@\] ifoam-eu.org](#). For more information about IFOAM EU's work on animal welfare, contact [isabella.lang \[@\] ifoam-eu.org](#).

4 MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC – SUPPORT IFOAM EU

IFOAM EU KEY SUPPORTERS 2019

The contributions of sponsors allow IFOAM EU to focus on its most important work – representing organic stakeholders. This funding is a means to co-finance IFOAM EU events, projects and publications and is a highly valued contribution to our work.



5 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

13-16 February 2019

Biofach 2019

Nürnberg, Germany

26 February 2019

The Contribution of Organic Agriculture to the SDGs – Scientific evidence from comparative research

Brussels, Belgium



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