

Brussels, 16 October 2015

Re: Vote on the National Emissions Ceilings Directive (NEC) on 28 October

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

On 28 October you will vote on the COMENVI report¹ concerning the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants and amending Directive 2003/35/EC. **The organic food and farming sector (IFOAM EU)**, which represents 170 member organisations, including organic farmer organisations from most EU countries, **urges you to support ambitious ceilings on ammonia and methane emissions.**

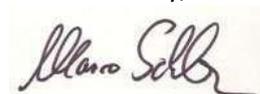
Putting ceilings on ammonia and methane emissions, as proposed by the Commission, will not jeopardize the agriculture production sector. There are several techniques and management measures that both organic and conventional farmers can implement to reduce ammonia and methane emissions.

IFOAM EU and the research institute FiBL recently published a report listing good management practices that can be applied to the livestock sector or to crop production². A whole-farm system approach (with nitrogen balances at farmgate level) can lead to a significant reduction of ammonia losses, increase nutrient efficiencies and reduce long-term costs, whilst avoiding major trade-offs. Manure management, appropriate grazing management and changes in feeding strategies, such as low-protein animal feeding and phase feeding (including grain legumes and adapted to real needs), can also lead to reduced methane emissions. Sustainable biogas production, based on waste and residues, also offers significant emissions reduction potential³. Tailored agri-environmental measures (and specific measures for organic farming) under EU Rural Development Programmes can help farmers to implement such practices, and ceilings on methane and ammonia emissions will be a driver for further research and innovation in improved crop and livestock management practices.

IFOAM EU believes that the farming sector, with the necessary support of EU legislation, can contribute to improved air quality, better health of European citizens and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

We remain at your disposal for any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Marco Schlüter, Director IFOAM EU

¹ Draft EU Parliament legislative resolution www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+REPORT+A8-2015-0249+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN

² *Mitigating the impact of agriculture on air quality and climate change: Solutions for improved nitrogen management*, IFOAM EU & FiBL, 2014 www.ifoam-eu.org/sites/default/files/ifoam_ifoameu_policy_air_quality_climate_dossier_2014.pdf

³ www.sustaingas.eu