



Working for organic farming in Europe

International Federation of
Organic Agriculture Movements –
EU Regional Group

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President: Christopher Stopes

Director: Marco Schlüter

European Office

Rue du Commerce 124
1000 Brussels
Belgium

Phone: +32-2-280 12 23

Fax: : +32-2-735 7381

Email: info@ifoam-eu.org

Committee Vote on Regulation on Novel Foods – 4th May

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

The IFOAM EU Group follows the development of the Novel Food regulation carefully, as changes in the regulation will influence the whole food sector; they may have an impact on the freedom of choice for consumers, on public health and on the health and welfare of animals kept for food production

IFOAM's goal is the worldwide adoption of ecologically, socially and economically sound food systems, following the principles of health, fairness, ecology and care. While the organic food sector is highly innovative and welcomes progress that improves the quality and sustainability of food and food production, IFOAM strongly opposes the use of new technologies that are not verified as safe based on the precautionary principle, that have a low acceptance amongst consumers or where ethical concerns are prevalent in society.

Regarding the present proposals of amendments for the Novel Food Regulation, we are therefore specifically concerned about the issues nanotechnology, animal cloning and the labelling of animal products produced from animals fed with genetically modified feeding stuff and would like to express our support for some amendments that had already been adopted by the European Parliament in first reading (13, 41, 73, 14, 40, 82) as well as one amendment similar to what has been adopted (138).

Please find on the following pages comments and voting recommendations on the amendments that we consider as crucial on this issues.

With thanks for your consideration of this letter,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marco Schlueter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marco Schlueter, Director IFOAM EU Group

Vote in the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety on 4th May; regulation on Novel Foods; draft recommendation by MEP Kartika Tamara Liotard.

The IFOAM EU Group would like to draw your attention to the following amendments that have been made for the second reading on novel foods:

Nanotechnology

The IFOAM EU group is strongly **in favour of Amendments 13 and 41.**

As nano-particles used in different fields of food, feed and food package production might have impacts on human health, a wide potential use of nanotechnologies should be covered by the scope of the regulation. All uses in farming and food production sectors should be covered: nano-particles as inputs in agricultural production, e.g. fertilizers, plant protection substances, cleaners, etc.; nano-particles as food and feed ingredient or as processing aids; nano particles in substances like cleaning agents and as part of the food or feed packaging.

The IFOAM EU Group is in **favour of Amendment 138.**

The possible impact of the production and use of nano-particles on the environment must be taken into consideration by the risk managing authority.

The IFOAM EU Group is in **favour of Amendment 73.**

The impact of nano-particles on human and animal health is not yet fully understood. Therefore, nano-particles should be subject to detailed risk assessment. More research is needed to establish appropriate methods for the evaluation and risk assessment of nano-particles, so that decisions about the use of nanotechnologies in the food sector can be based on solid knowledge in the future.

Cloned animals

The IFOAM EU Group is **in favour of Amendments 14 and 40.**

Techniques of animal cloning for food production are not only unacceptable, but also unnecessary for sufficient and healthy food supply. Cloning is related to worst impacts on animal health and welfare, moreover it is a threat to genetic diversity in farm animals and to farmers' independency in case of patented technologies. A majority of EU citizens neglects animal cloning technologies due to the reasons described above and due to ethical reasons.

The IFOAM EU Group is against any use of meat and other animal products from cloned animals as well as their offspring/descendants. Therefore, the IFOAM EU Group calls for ban on the cloning of animals for food production in the EU. Moreover, the import and sale of imported food products originating from cloned animals as well as their offspring/descendants should be banned.

Regarding the need for an in depth ethical debate on the issue as well as the relevance of this issue not only for food safety but also regarding animal health and welfare, the subject of animal cloning should be excluded from the scope of the novel food regulation. Instead, animal cloning should be regulated by a specific regulation agreed under the co-decision procedure. A moratorium on the use of cloned animals and their offspring/descendants should be imposed in the EU until the new regulation would enter into force.

Labelling of products from animals which have been fed with GMOs

The IFOAM EU Group strongly **supports Amendment 82**.

Two thirds of European consumers refuse GMOs on their plates. Thanks to the EU labelling requirement consumers have the choice for GMO free food in plant products. But regarding animal products, the freedom of choice is not yet fully guaranteed: There is a regulatory gap because the labelling of food products that come from animals that were fed with GMO feed is not yet mandatory. We believe the freedom to opt for products that come from GMO free farming is a crucial consumer's right. This right is overdue to be implemented in European legislation also for animal products.