

PRESS RELEASE

**STRONG BOARD & PRESIDENT FOR A STRONG EUROPEAN ORGANIC MOVEMENT**

Amsterdam, 4 April 2016 – Building on the strength of increasing influence and recognition for its strong advocacy work in Brussels, the IFOAM EU membership elected a new board at its 8<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Amsterdam today. A strong mandate is needed as the trilogue discussions on the Commission's proposal for a new organic regulation continue, and other hot topics for the sector such as new breeding techniques, climate change and upcoming European Food Research Areas are on the EU agenda, not to mention a fundamental review of the Common Agriculture Policy. IFOAM EU is proud to announce that there was a strong turnout for the general assembly, with 28 countries and more than 110 members represented. They had the opportunity to elect nine board members from a candidate list of 18 highly qualified and diverse organic stakeholders.

The members of the new board are:

President: Christopher Stopes, EcoS Consultancy, United Kingdom  
Vice President for Regulation: Sabine Eigenschink, Austria Bio Garantie, Austria  
Vice President for Policy: Jan Plagge, Bioland, Germany  
Treasurer: Bavo van den Idsert, Bionext, the Netherlands

And:

Évelyne Alcázar Marín, Ecovalia, Spain  
Sylvie Dulong, Fédération Nationale d'Agriculture Biologique, France  
Thomas Fertl, BioAustria, Austria  
Sybille Kyed, Organic Denmark, Denmark  
Jiri Lehejcek, Czech Technology Platform for Organic Agriculture, Czech Republic

IFOAM EU is proud that the sector, regional and gender representation criteria were all met with in the first round of voting and there was such a strong representation of members at the general assembly.

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IFOAM EU represents more than 160 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.