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WELCOME NOTE

Dear members,

I am happy to inform you that we have made significant progress across our various areas of activity over the past few months – all of which could not have been possible without your continuous support. From publishing a position paper on the European Commission’s proposal for a Directive on Unfair Trading Practices (UTPs), to finalising the SOLMACC (Strategies for Organic and Low-Input Farming to Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change) project, we have steadily strived to implement [our vision for the future of European agriculture by 2030](#).

In the face of these major developments for food and farming, the 12th European Organic Congress provides the perfect opportunity for industry knowledge exchange and in-depth discussions on how all actors in the organic food supply chain can continue making such great strides.

This year’s edition of the European Organic Congress will take place over two days on 25 and 26 September in Vienna, Austria – a county where 25% of the agricultural land is cultivated organically. The Congress will hone into current affairs of the sector by forming much needed dialogue on the ongoing revision of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), production rules for the new Organic Regulation and dealing with unfair trading practices (UTPs).

Participants to the Congress will be welcomed by our President, Jan Plagge, and the President of BioAustria, Gertraud Grabmann. The first day of Congress will provide participants with a full-day of focused discussions via plenaries hosted by a number of high-level experts. The opening plenary on ‘Fair Play and Fair Pay’ will bring together vital actors from NaturaSi, the European Commission, the European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA), Fair Trade Advocacy Office, and BioAustria, to facilitate talks on how we can achieve a more sustainable food system and what is needed in the short and long-term. Talks will continue in the following plenary on ‘The Future of food and farming’ where speakers will analyse how the design of the post-2020 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) can empower farmers and help them to deliver public goods to society.

In the morning of the second day, the Congress will open with a plenary on “new production rules for plants and livestock” and continue with two parallel workshops – one on the design and implementation of the new CAP strategic plans proposed by the European Commission, the second on fairness along the value chain. To round off the Congress, participants have the chance to see organic values and principles in practice at a one-day excursion to organic farms and companies in Lower Austria.

I am eager to see how the discussions we will have at the Congress will feed into the EU’s post-2020 agenda and the future of organic farming.

Organic regards,

Thomas Fertl

Board Member and sector representative for farming, IFOAM EU

POLITICAL HOTSPOT

On 25 July 2018 the European Court of Justice (ECJ) delivered its final ruling on the legal status of new genetic engineering techniques and concluded that “techniques/methods of directed mutagenesis involving the use of genetic engineering which have appeared or have been mostly developed since Directive 2001/18 was adopted and in respect of which the risks for the environment or for human health have not thus far been established with certainty” are indeed techniques of genetic modification that lead to the production of GMOs. Genetic engineering techniques developed after the adoption of the GMO legislation and with no long record of safety must therefore be regulated as GMOs. [IFOAM EU welcomes this important decision](#), as well as the main organisations of the European civil society ([Friend of the Earth Europe](#), [European Coordination Via Campesina](#), [Greenpeace Europe](#), and many more). After the European Commission repeatedly delayed the clarification of the legal status of new GMOs, the court case initiated by eight French NGOs and one farmers union brings legal full clarity. This decision is fully in line with the position of the organic sector (read the positions of [IFOAM EU](#) and [IFOAM – Organics International](#)) as it will ensure transparency for breeders, farmers, processors and consumers and will allow organic and non-GM conventional operators to continue to exclude GMOs from their production processes.

This decision is an important victory, but it also means that there will be unprecedented pressure from the biotech industry and some foreign governments to review the EU legislative framework on GMOs to exclude the new techniques from its scope. Some EU Member States are already calling for such a modification in order not to hinder “innovation”.

It is crucial that the organic movement and civil society remain mobilised to ensure that the ECJ’s decision will be enforced by the European Commission, and that Directive 2001/18 on the release of GMOs into the environment will not be modified to exclude new GM techniques.

In August, IFOAM EU co-signed a [letter to Commissioner Juncker](#) to highlight the required steps following the ECJ’s ruling. The European Commission should remind Member States that they have to stop illegal releases of GMOs in the environment and ensure that GMOs derived from new genetic engineering techniques do not enter the EU without market authorisation. In that regard, it is crucial to develop methods for the detection of authorised and unauthorised GMOs. Finally, breeders and seed companies must exercise full transparency on techniques used to breed, select and multiply varieties marketed in the EU and developed since the adoption of Directive 2001/18.

IFOAM EU’s new project, ‘Keeping GMOs out of organic’, that runs from August 2018 until the end of 2020, has a clear focus on new genetic engineering techniques and will allow IFOAM EU to continue its advocacy work to ensure that all new techniques will be regulated.

1 NEWS FROM IFOAM EU WORKING FIELDS

1.1 Regulation

New EGTOP reports published on Food and Fertiliser

The Expert Group for Technical Advice on Organic Production (EGTOP) published two new reports, one on Food and one on Fertilisers. In the report on food, among others, the use of lecithin in organic food processing is clarified. The wording in the regulation is not clear enough and the EGTOP suggests that only organic lecithin is permitted. In the report of fertilisers, among others, the use of biochar is considered to be in line with the principles of organic farming, provided that certain conditions are respected.

Read the full reports on [Food](#) and [Fertilisers](#).

The Expert Group for Technical Advice on Organic Production (EGTOP) is a group of independent experts which delivers technical recommendations to the EU Commission. Following specific mandates from the EU Commission, the EGTOP produces reports with opinions whether given substances or techniques are in line with the principles of organic production. Those recommendations are not binding but the Commission must consider them when updating the organic regulations, mainly the Annexes of Reg. (EC) No 889/2008.

1.2 Policy

Climate change

Climate-friendly farming demonstrates its benefits for farmers and the environment – end of five-year long SOLMACC project

The SOLMACC project comes to an end after successfully demonstrating that innovative farming practices can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen farmers' adaptation to climate change, and remain economically viable to the farmer.

The climate-friendly farming practices implemented within SOLMACC fell under four main categories: nutrient management, crop rotation, tillage management, and agroforestry. These practices are already quite common within organic farming, but the project aimed to spread them wider and showcase their benefits through monitoring their implementation on twelve demonstration farms in Germany, Italy and Sweden. To promote the climate-friendly practices, SOLMACC partners organised [open field days](#) and [public events](#), developed [a practical manual](#) detailing the implementation and measured impact of all practices, and produced [videos showcasing SOLMACC farmers](#) themselves.

A central part of the project was advocacy towards EU policy-makers to gather greater support for climate-friendly farming. The project developed [policy recommendations](#) and an [advocacy leaflet](#) to help communicate key messages such as the crucial role of the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to support farmers tackling climate change and providing public goods.

To find out more about the SOLMACC project's achievements, check the newly published . For detailed descriptions of all farming practices implemented and their measured impact, read the [Practitioner's Manual](#), available in English, German, Italian and Swedish.

IFOAM EU coordinated the five-year long project, that was funded through the EU LIFE programme. [Visit the SOLMACC website](#) for more information about the project and the project partners.



SOLMACC is supported with the contribution of the LIFE financial instrument of the European Union (agreement number: LIFE12 ENV/SE/000800).

Food, farming and environment

IFOAM EU addressed the Italian Parliament about the agri-food sector and its issues

ROME, 24 July 2018 – IFOAM EU introduced Italian deputies to the EU organic sector and movement. It presented the movement's vision on transforming food and farming by 2030, its position on the CAP post-2020 based on the concept "public money for public goods", as well as the new organic regulation.

IFOAM EU was invited by the Agriculture Committee of the Italian Chamber of Deputies to discuss the situation and the problems of the agri-food sector. Emanuele Busacca, Regulation Manager at IFOAM EU, and Vincenzo Vizioli, President of the Italian Organic Farmers Association (AIAB) represented the organic sector.

[Watch a recording of the event](#) (in Italian).

Strategies to access land for organic farming – New Erasmus+ project explores innovative ways

IFOAM EU will take part to a new two-year long project on "Collaborative learning about innovative land strategies", which aims at presenting successful case studies from initiatives supporting access to land for organic and agroecological farming. Through workshops and events in five European countries, experiences and best-practice examples about local and European land strategies will be shared and further developed. Another objective of the project is to raise awareness among policy makers, farmers and related parties on the manifold obstacles farmers are currently facing when trying to access farmland. A handbook and a policy report which will draw from country workshops and analyses of good practices of securing land for organic farming and agroecology, will be developed.

The work is led by [Terre de liens](#) (FR) and the [European Access to Land network](#) (FR / EU), partners include the [Transnational Institute](#) (EU / NL), [Urgenci](#) (EU / International) as well as the [European Coordination Via Campesina](#) (ECVC) and its member organisations [EcoRuralis](#) (RO) and the [Real Farm Trust](#) (UK).

IFOAM EU will evaluate how different European policies like the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) are facilitating and / or hindering access to land for organic farmers. On the basis of this analysis we will develop policy recommendations for the European and local levels.



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

IFOAM EU's concerns about the revision of the general food law (regulation 178/2002)

Following the European Citizens' Initiative asking for a ban on glyphosate, [the European Commission proposed a regulation](#) on transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment amending the General Food Law. Modifications proposed by the European Commission also concern the GMOs legislation (Directive 2001/18/EC and Regulation 1829/2003) and transparency.

IFOAM EU is particularly concerned by two modifications proposed by the Commission regarding GMOs and confidentiality, which would allow '*DNA sequence information*' and '*breeding patterns and strategies*' to be considered as confidential information, if the proposal would be adopted. This would be a backward step regarding transparency and the current legislation on GMOs, as this information is crucial, in particular for farmers and breeders to be able to avoid GMOs contamination.

IFOAM EU has called on MEPs to ensure that this proposal will actually not reduce transparency.

A step closer to fairness in the supply chain – IFOAM EU's position on unfair trading practices and a closer look at the legislative context

IFOAM EU published its [position paper on Unfair Trading Practices](#) (UTPs) ahead of the meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA) of 10 September. IFOAM EU believes that tackling UTPs at EU level is a first welcome step towards a fairer agri-food system.

However, the Commission proposal can be improved:

- Currently, the directive covers UTPs imposed by non-SME buyers to SME suppliers. IFOAM EU advocates for an extension of the scope, i.e. that the directive should apply to all actors, regardless of size, without increasing the administrative burden;
- The current proposal only prohibits a restricted list of UTPs. IFOAM EU asks that the proposal includes a general definition of UTPs together with an outright ban of these practices. Also, the list of prohibited UTPs should be longer;
- The mechanism of cooperation between competent authorities should be strengthened, especially when it comes to cross-border UTPs.

The proposal currently covers non-EU suppliers. For the sake of fairness in the supply chain and to protect EU suppliers, IFOAM EU believes that non-EU suppliers should remain included.

The most contentious issue within the SCA meeting was the extension of the scope in terms of actors. No compromise has been found yet. The next SCA meeting will take place on 17 September, after which the position of the Council will be clearer.

1.3 EU Research & Innovation Policy / TP Organics

Register now and submit your innovation for the 4th edition of the Organic Innovation Days

[Registration](#) is open for the 4th edition of the [Organic Innovation Days](#) that will take place in Brussels 27-29 November 2018.

This year, the Organic Innovation Days are organised in collaboration with the [G-STIC](#) conference. [Secure your spot now!](#)

Highlights of [the agenda](#):

- **Policy debate on [Horizon Europe](#)**, the EU's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation for the period 2021-2027;
- **Award ceremony of [TP Organics' Call for Organic Innovations](#)**;
- **Looking beyond organics**: fairness in food and farming; biodegradable plastics for organic farming; ecology meets technology & more;
- Workshop for preparing the new **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda** of TP Organics;
- High-level dialogue on policy actions for **agroecology**, organised by the Third World Network;
- **Networking Dinner** on November 28.

[Registration is open until 31 October 2018](#). Make sure to register on time because places are limited.

Do you want to have your organic products displayed at the Innovation Days? [info \[at\] tporganics.eu](mailto:info[at]tporganics.eu).

As part of Organic Innovation Days, TP Organics launched a [Call for Innovations](#) that contribute to the **transformation of European food & farming systems**, based on organic and agroecological principles. We are happy to confirm the jury members:

- Markus Arbenz, former director IFOAM – Organics International
- Mute Schimpf, Friends of the Earth Europe
- Laurence Beck, Director Quality and Sustainability, Wessanen

Read the complete description of the call and find the template for submitting your innovation on [TP Organics' website](#). **Submit your application** by sending it to [info \[at\] tporganics.eu](mailto:info[at]tporganics.eu) **by 30 September**. The winner will be awarded on 28 November at the [G-STIC conference](#) and get a space at the TP Organics exhibition booth to present their innovation to a broad audience of companies, researchers, and policy makers.

TP Organics is the European Technology Platform for Organic Food and Farming. TP Organics aims to strengthen research & innovation for organics and other agroecological approaches. The secretariat of TP Organics is hosted by IFOAM EU since 2008.



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New TP Organics briefing with latest scientific evidence on organic farming performance

TP Organics recently published a new [briefing](#) that summarises the latest scientific evidence about organic farming in terms of economic, environmental, and health performance. It draws on the most relevant publications that critically assess the productivity and sustainability of organic farming methods. The rapidly growing amount of scientific literature on this topic reflects the increasing importance of the sector as well as the need for accurate data and analysis to inform policy makers.

Sustainable food systems must be resource efficient, consistent with the context and carrying capacity of ecosystems, as well as sufficient, i.e. reducing production and consumption levels as well as waste. With this briefing, TP Organics seeks to demonstrate that organic farming is an innovative approach to agriculture that can help solve the challenges of European food & farming systems. Organic better balances the different sustainability goals in the four key areas of sustainability, namely productivity, environmental impact, economic viability, and social wellbeing. The briefing is not a finalised document. Comments and suggestions for improvements are welcome at [info \[at\] tporganics.eu](mailto:info[at]tporganics.eu).

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Data collection on organic seed and breeding in Europe

The aim of the LIVESEED project is to collect reliable sound data about organic seed and plant breeding in Europe. Therefore the Greek association Aegilops initiated an [online survey](#) to get a clear overview of the **state of art of organic apple breeding in Europe**. [Fill out the survey now](#) (estimated time: 10 minutes).

LIVESEED started to create an Apple Breeders' Network in order to disseminate and share relevant information. The network collects and shares knowledge about the priorities of apple breeding in each country, methodologies used, cultivar testing protocols, cultivars and rootstocks which have been tested, and any results or successful examples existing on selected adapted material for organic apple crop.

Other stakeholders are invited to participate to this Network, as the project wants to share much of its experience: exchange of information, meetings and workshops are planned within the LIVESEED Apple Network.

In case you have any questions or are interested to become a stakeholder, contact [alexandra.fuss \[at\] ifoam-eu.org](mailto:alexandra.fuss[at]ifoam-eu.org).

Exclusive for IFOAM EU members: In October 2018 there will be a webinar on the first outcomes of the national visits that took place in the framework of the LIVESEED project, and further insights will be shared. Are you interested to take part? Contact [alexandra.fuss \[at\] ifoam-eu.org](mailto:alexandra.fuss[at]ifoam-eu.org).

Follow LIVESEEDS' activities on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), or on the website www.liveseed.eu.

IFOAM EU is project coordinator of this multi-actor research project, aiming to boost organic seed and plant breeding across Europe.



LIVESEED received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement Liveseed (No 72723).

Continuous innovation to reduce contentious inputs in organic: new project website launched

Check out the brand new [RELACS project website](#) and find out how organic is continuously innovating to reduce contentious inputs on www.relacs-project.eu.

Share the messages about the website launch on [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#) using #RELACSeu

IFOAM EU is a proud partner in the RELACS project and contributes by developing policy briefs, roadmaps and practice abstracts, and by managing the work package on communication. [Check out all the partners on the RELACS website](#).

Follow RELACS on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) using #RELACSeu, and on www.relacs-project.eu.



'Replacement of Contentious Inputs in Organic Farming Systems' (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.

Horizon Europe should support ecological intensification and organic agriculture, says draft report of the European Parliament

In the proposal of the European Commission for [Horizon Europe](#), the framework programme for research and innovation for 2021–2027, €10 billion will be dedicated to 'Food and Natural Resources'.

Mid-July, the rapporteurs of the European Parliament, [Dan Nica](#) and [Christian Ehler](#), published their draft reports. TP Organics is happy to read in the [Ehler report](#) that Horizon Europe should accelerate "the transition of food and farming towards ecological intensification and agroecological approaches to benefit both conventional and organic agriculture". Yet, the reports also raise concerns. Rapporteurs want to put more restrictions on open access, and the language on the involvement of civil society and citizens in research policy should be improved. Concerns about blurring of competitiveness objectives versus Sustainable Development Goals remain.

TP Organics has presented suggestions for amendments to Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). In the coming weeks TP Organics will analyse the amendments that have been tabled by MEPs. The vote by the ITRE Committee of the European Parliament is expected on 5 November. In parallel, discussions are taking place in the Council. TP Organics is in contact with the Austrian and Romanian presidencies to ensure that research enhancing organic agriculture will be supported by the Council too.

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2 IFOAM EU DEVELOPMENTS

Read IFOAM EU's 2017 annual report

Are you interested in our work? If you are, you know that IFOAM EU continuously advocates for the adoption of systems based on the principles of organic agriculture, health, ecology, fairness and care.

In this document you find out which topics we brought up and projects we ran in 2017. Find out more about these topics, projects, but also our structure, funding and achievements in the [IFOAM EU 2017 annual report](#).

Keen to learn about initiatives transforming food and farming in Europe? Visit www.euorganic2030.bio and submit your own initiative

The organic movement is a front-runner when it comes to setting the stage for fair, environmentally conscious, healthy and caring food and farming systems across the globe. 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:

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

Need inspiration? Go to euorganic2030.bio and find many – new – initiatives! You're invited to [submit your own initiative too!](#) Relevant submissions will be profiled on EUorganic2030.bio and [on social media using #EUorganic2030](#).



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European volunteer (EVS) experiences organic food and farming

Maria, one of IFOAM EU's one-year volunteers, experienced the realities of growing and selling organic produce at PlukPlek. In Dutch, PlukPlek means a location where one harvests (pluk = harvest, plek = place). This year issues the third season where Dorothea Lequeux manages an organic market garden for self-harvest in Ternat (Flanders, Belgium), giving the produce that people pick themselves a story and a face.

The innovative concept, combining organic agriculture (small fruits and vegetables) with a short supply-chain, direct selling and active consumer participation, inspired Maria to do her farm stay – part of her voluntary service at IFOAM EU – at PlukPlek.

By helping with planting salads and herbs, harvesting berries, physalis and vegetables, trimming and tying up raspberries and tomatoes, Maria got to know and appreciate the work behind organic food and farming. She directly experienced farming's weather dependency – from lasting drought to the danger of hail destroying the harvest, acquired new practical skills – from farming, cooking and fermenting (pesto, pickles, Kombucha, Kefir, sourdough bread ...) to personal customer contact.

Maria said the following about her experience: "It is in this way – learning by doing, practice itself being the most sustainable form of learning – that the enormous tacit knowledge of farmers that nowadays is about to be forgotten is transferred and lives on."



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Welcoming our new colleagues:

Jessica Ferro

At the end of June, Jessica joined IFOAM EU as Finance and Projects Assistant and she works in both the project and finance units. Jessica is Colombian but has been living in Belgium for three years now, where she completed her Master's degree and then had her first work experience in the EU context. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Universidad de los Andes (Colombia) and a Master's degree in development and population sciences from Université Catholique de Louvain. Jessica has previously worked at the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD) in Brussels and the World Food Programme (UN-WFP) in Bogotá. She is a native speaker of Spanish and is fluent in English and French. Her motivation to join IFOAM EU comes both from her interest in supporting sustainable and fair agriculture practices as well as joining an NGO contributing to policy change for the betterment of the organic sector.

Barbara Barbosa

Fresh out of university, where she finished her Bachelor's in Political Science, Barbara joined IFOAM EU's Policy unit as an EVS volunteer at the end of July. She was born and raised in Portugal. Working at IFOAM EU gives her the chance to combine her interest in policy and learning, and investigating how organic agriculture actually works. Growing up in a rural area close to Porto tickled her interested in agriculture and farming. Combining that interest with the skills developed throughout the Political Science bachelor's, she is happy and excited to engage making Europe more organic.



Ana Carolina Ferreira

Carolina joined the Events and Membership unit at IFOAM EU as a volunteer in July 2018. She is a Portuguese national who's currently residing in Brussels and who holds a bachelor's degree in Languages and International Relations, attained at the University of Porto. Amongst the reasons why she chose IFOAM EU within the EVS programme is the fact that IFOAM EU helps volunteers effectively develop their skills, as well as IFOAM EU's active approach to the promotion of organic farming. Throughout her academic path, Carolina has engaged in a number of student initiatives, such as the European Youth Parliament and the Model of the United Nations, which has allowed her to not only attain a higher level of sensitivity regarding a variety of issues, including climate change, but also meet a plethora of pro-active young people.



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3 EVENTS

3.1 Preview of events

Join Natexpo – France’s international trade show for organic products

23 – 24 September 2018, Eurexpo Lyon, France

Natexpo is the leading trade-only event in France and is increasingly becoming a reference exhibition in Europe for all purchasers and decision makers working in the organic market.

Natexpo is a springboard for organic trends on a high-potential market: recording 17% growth in 2017, the French market is the fastest growing organic market in Europe and the second largest by value, with more than 5 organic points of sale opening every week on average. This constitutes a genuine opportunity for all organic professionals.

With 20% internationals among 700 exhibitors, Natexpo continues its international deployment with the aim of helping trade professionals in their growth ambitions, whether searching for new export markets or widening their product sourcing channels.

Meet the most innovative companies on the market and enjoy more than 50 talks and workshops. Download your free badge on www.natexpo.com

European Organic Milk Producers joining forces in Rennes, Brittany (FR)

24 – 26 September 2018, Rennes, France

The third edition of the [European Copper Conference](#) will be co-organised by IFOAM EU together with the Julius Kühn-Institut (JKI) and the Bund Ökologische Lebensmittelwirtschaft e.V. (BÖLW). The conference will be held in English and will be organised around three thematic blocs – guidance for risk assessment for mineral substances, European copper minimisation strategies and research and innovation

12th European Organic Congress: Experience organic principles in practice

25 – 26 September 2018, Vienna, Austria

[The 12th European Organic Congress](#) is fast approaching – the programme is set, and our high-level speakers are warming up to discuss ‘Organic on every table: Added value for farmers, consumers and society’.

Moreover, do not miss out on the opportunity to partake on a field visit to selected organic farms and companies in Lower Austria. The one-day excursion will provide you with ample opportunities to see organic principles and practices through tours at [the Sonnentor](#) company, [Nikolaihof](#) winery, and the [farm of Alfred Grand](#).

Please note that registration to the congress does not secure a place in the excursion. Additional registration and a fee of 68 EUR/pp (VAT included) is required. The fee includes wine tasting, bus transfer, beverages, and a full organic lunch.

[Register now](#) as the capacity for participants is limited and spaces are going quickly.

All details and logistical information are available on [the Congress website](#).



Discussing the revision of the Common Agricultural Policy in the European Parliament

10 October 2018, Brussels, Belgium

On 10 October at 15h, MEP Noichl (S&D), will host an event on how the next CAP could help farmers to do more for the environment. Jan Plagge, IFOAM EU new president, will present the organic movement's vision for the next CAP and MEPs from different parties will exchange on the current negotiations.

European Days of Action – Good Food Good Farming Campaign

27-28 October, European-wide

Join the Good Food Good Farming Campaign, a mobilisation for more sustainable farming and a better Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) that will take place in cities across Europe on 27-28 October. Meet with like-minded activists, farmers and concerned citizens to ask for better food, a cleaner environment and fairer conditions for rural communities.

Join the closest march near you on the last weekend of October or get in contact beforehand and help to organise it. You can find the call for action in several languages and the description of events across Europe in the following website: <https://www.goodfoodgoodfarming.eu>

IFOAM EU meets business – An engaging opportunity bringing the organic food industry together

30 October 2018, Brussels, Belgium

IFOAM EU meets business will take place on 30 October in Brussels, with the aim of gathering the organic food industry in an interactive setting. This technical meeting is open to food companies who work with organic products – IFOAM EU membership is therefore not required in order to attend. This day will be an opportunity for IFOAM EU, its interest group of organic processors and traders (IGOP) and interested food companies to discuss relevant topics in the organic sector, to share information and exchange on best practices, to understand each other's perspectives and most importantly to debate the direction to take on technical issues in the next working period.

[Topics on the agenda](#) are the new organic regulation with a focus on residues and contaminants, import and export of organic products, quality assurance and raw material availability, and market development of the sector.

Do you want to join? [Register now!](#)

European Copper Conference - Final programme online

15-16 November 2018, Julius Kühn-Institut, Berlin-Dahlem, Germany

The third edition of the [European Copper Conference](#) will be co-organised by IFOAM EU together with the Julius Kühn-Institut (JKI) and the Bund Ökologische Lebensmittelwirtschaft e.V. (BOELW). The conference will be held in English and will be organised around three thematic blocs – guidance for risk assessment for mineral substances, European copper minimisation strategies and research and innovation.

3.2 Review of events

Farmers Interest Group meeting fosters relations with Romanian organic sector

20 – 22 June 2018, Sibiu, Romania

The IFOAM EU Interest Group of Organic Farmers held their first meeting of the year in Bucharest and Sibiu, Romania on 20 - 22 June. The first day of the meeting started with a round table discussion in the Parliament palace in Bucharest with high-level Romanian politicians, including the Vice-Prime Minister Paul Stănescu and Agriculture Secretary of State Daniel Dumitru Botănoiu, to debate the role of organic farming within the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) proposal.

The IFOAM EU farmers then travelled to the Sâmbăta de Sus Monastery, in the heart of Transilvania, and had an excursion at a local small-scale farm.

During the second day of the meeting, the main topic on the agenda was the new proposal for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the upcoming position of IFOAM EU. The discussion focused on concrete points of the proposal including the overall budget for the CAP, its green architecture based on Eco-Schemes and Rural Development, the newly proposed system of objectives and indicators, risk management schemes within CAP, measures for young farmers and small farmers. Other topics on the farmers' agenda were the EU proposal to regulate Unfair Trading Practices; Bio Austria gave a presentation about capacity building and a new Steering Committee of the Farmers Group was elected for the term from 2018 to 2020.

The future of copper use in agriculture – Discussion in the European Parliament

10 July 2018, Brussels, Belgium

Eric Gall, Deputy Director of IFOAM EU, participated to a panel discussion in the European parliament organised by the French MEP Angelique Delahaye (EPP, France). Under the heading "Copper in agriculture – Beyond the ban: which model do we want for the future", representatives from science, civil society and policy makers discussed possible ways to reduce copper use in plant protection in the future. Together with our members from the French organic farming association (FNAB) IFOAM EU emphasised the fact that plant health care in organic farming is not only about input replacement but seeks holistic strategies to minimise the use of external inputs like copper.

Talks are currently ongoing at EU level about copper minimization and the possible re-authorisation of copper as a plant protection product. The fact that the European Commission gave a mandate to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to develop a Guidance Document for the risk assessment of mineral substances is an important step towards a sound assessment of naturally occurring mineral substances.

Final event of IFOAM EU's 'Keeping GMOs out of food' project – Debate on New Genetic Engineering Techniques: what is at stake for the agricultural sector?

11 July 2018, Brussels, Belgium

Started in 2014, IFOAM EU's 'Keeping GMOs out of food' project was officially closed during its final event organised on 11 July, where. The main achievements of the project – advocacy work, publications, etc – were presented. This event was also an opportunity for IFOAM EU, La Via Campesina, Copia-Cogeca, European Commission representatives, and participating civil society organisations to debate the legal status of new genetic engineering techniques, and different approaches to the future of European agriculture.



As the GMOs issue remains crucial for the organic sector, IFOAM EU launched a new project “Keeping GMOs out of organics” to be able to continue its advocacy work to help the organic sector to continue to remain GMO-free. The new project will focus on new genetic engineering techniques.

IFOAM EU would like to thank again its main sponsors that made all these activities possible: Bio Suisse, DO-IT, Rapunzel, Software AG Stiftung, and Vivi Verde (Coop Italia).

9th GMO-free region conference in Berlin

6 – 7 September 2018

On 6-7 September, the [9th GMO-free region conference](#) took place in Berlin. After the recent [decision of the European Court of Justice on the legal status on new GMOs](#), this conference provided NGOs and regions representatives with the opportunity to discuss the challenges for agriculture and environment in this new context.

IFOAM EU co-organised two workshops on the EU political situation regarding new GMOs. On 6 September, Eric Gall, IFOAM EU Deputy Director participated to the panel discussion ‘Living with CRISPR’ and highlighted the necessity to use the precautionary principle both with risk management and risk assessment. On 7 September, Pauline Verrière, Policy Officer, presented the [common position of the organic movements on new GMOs](#) and provided an overview of the positive welcome of European civil society regarding the decision of the European Court of Justice.

The conference was concluded by Mrs Tappeser, President of the European GMO-free Regions Network and State Secretary of the Hessen Ministry for Environment, who presented the [Berlin Declaration](#) adopted during the conference by the GMO-free Regions Network, notably asking for a moratorium on ‘Gene-drive’.

4 MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC – SUPPORT IFOAM EU

IFOAM EU key supporters 2018

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

23-24 September 2018

[Natexpo](#)

Lyon, France

24 – 26 September 2018, Rennes, France

[European Organic Milk Producers joining forces](#)

Rennes, France

25-27 September 2018

[12th European Organic Congress](#)

Vienna, Austria

10 October 2018,

[Discussing the revision of the CAP in the European Parliament](#)

Brussels, Belgium

27-28 October 2018

[Good Food Good Farming](#)

Mass mobilisation for sustainable agriculture in cities across Europe

30 October 2018

[IFOAM EU meets business – An engaging opportunity bringing the organic food industry together](#)

Brussels, Belgium

14-15 November 2018

[Natural Products Scandinavia & Nordic Organic Food Fair](#)

MalmöMässan, Sweden

15-16 November 2018

[European Conference on Copper in Plant Protection](#)

Near Berlin, Germany

27-29 November 2018

[Organic Innovation Days](#)

Brussels, Belgium

13-16 February 2019

[Biofach 2019](#)

Nürnberg, Germany



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