

Organic as part of the solution to achieve sustainable food systems

Silvia Schmidt, Policy Manager, IFOAM Organics Europe

What are the EU institutions up to?

- June 2024: EP elections & new commission
 - Projections foresee rise of extremes, Greens slide.
 - European Green Deal 2.0?
- Next COM's work programme being drafted as we speak
- Key agri-food drivers of the Commission: resilience & sustainability, climate adaptation, alignment food and agri policy, enlargement.
 - DG SANTE priorities: Biotech and One health
 - Priority seems to be implementation



What about policies/initiatives at EU level?



- European Commission:
 - Sustainable food systems law unlikely to be published
 - Animal welfare “trimmed” down to only include transport
 - Promotion policy budget for organic maintained
 - EU strategic dialogue on the future of agriculture



- European Parliament:
 - Sustainable use of pesticides directive rejected
 - Nature restoration law watered down
 - Amendment to take out ban for organic in NGT proposal



What place for organic?

- Political context combined with F2F strategy and organic target have resulted in increased polarization within EU agri-food stakeholders.
- Several scenarios possible for organic
- Market differentiation
- Find our new (old?) place within current context



- If we are serious about addressing today's challenges, organic should be the top priority when it comes to agri-food related policies and initiatives.
- Farmers interested in organic and other agroecological practices must have shorter-term goals before the conversion to organic.

 Show that organic is also a successful business model + yields

What about specific policies related to SFS?



Everyone is "sustainable": the need for policy coherence

Misuse of words such as "regenerative"

Labels such as "Haute Valeur environnementale"

Green claims & product Environmental Footprint methodology



Sustainable Public Procurement as market development tool

Canteen conversion

COM seems interested



Work on next CAP, NGTs, inputs etc continues.

Thank you for your attention!