

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
European Union Regional Group
IFOAM EU Group



IFOAM
EU GROUP

WORKING FOR ORGANIC FOOD AND FARMING IN EUROPE

IFOAM EU Group is the European umbrella organisation for organic food and farming. From our Brussels office and through our wide network of experts, we fight for the adoption of ecologically, socially and economically sound systems based on the principles of organic agriculture – health, ecology, fairness and care.

With more than 300 member organisations our expertise spans the entire organic food chain, from farmers' organisations, certification bodies, trade and research organisations and consultants, to companies, processors, retailers and environmental and consumer advocacy bodies.

Our activities

- » We promote the values and benefits of organic agriculture and position the sector in EU policy and regulations.
- » We collaborate with researchers, farmers, certifiers and processors to promote the development and implementation of innovative organic practices, and to build the appropriate capacities.
- » We provide a platform on which the European organic movement can define its positions, promote related research and facilitate information transfer between organic actors.



www.ifoam-eu.org

Editor: Lena Wietheger
English Editor: Alastair Penny
Design & layout: Diana Jastrzębska, Heroldart



5 | Welcome note

1 IFOAM EU GROUP ACTIVITIES

7 | Amending EU regulations on organic agriculture

10 | Influencing key EU policies

17 | Supporting EU research & innovation policies

2 IFOAM EU GROUP IN A NUTSHELL

21 | People

24 | Finances

'Getting the organic voice heard in Brussels and defining IFOAM EU's future,' that's how I would summarise IFOAM EU Group's activities in 2011. Our **extensive lobby work has proven to be highly effective** and could for example ensure that the EU Ecolabel has not been introduced for food. Another major success was the inclusion of production criteria for organic wine production in the organic EU regulation: the Commission adopted a position that was nearly identical to the content worked out by the IFOAM EU experts on organic wine.

Our networks within the EU institutions enabled us to influence a very hot issue on the political agenda: for the first time in 2011, the European Commission's legislative proposals for CAP reform included organic food and farming.

In 2011 our **outreach** also enjoyed a breakthrough. We were invited to an informal council of agriculture and environmental ministers during the **Hungarian EU Presidency**. Together, our president and I advocated for the interests of organic stakeholders at this high-level forum. Our **5th European Organic Congress** took place in Hungary and has been described by experts as the most important meeting for the organic sector so far in Central Europe. During the **Polish EU Presidency** in the second half of 2011, we held our first conference on organic processing which attracted more than 100 stakeholders.

Internally IFOAM EU Group is preparing itself for the future by fundamentally reforming its **membership system**. Country-based membership payments were replaced by a system of individual membership fees. 89% of the delegates to the IFOAM EU Group General Assembly in November 2011 voted for this change in membership fees and thereby paved the way for future financial stability.

Representatives of our office have also used 2011 to intensify collaboration with our parent IFOAM World and with organic movements in European countries. We especially wanted to meet with those who have less opportunity to participate in European meetings and therefore visited organic farmers and organisations in Latvia, Bulgaria, Greece and Cyprus.

You can find more detailed information on our activities and achievements in 2011 in this Annual Report. Enjoy your reading!

Marco Schlüter,
Director IFOAM EU Group



Amending EU regulations on organic agriculture

IFOAM EU position helps define new EU wine making rules

Lobbying by IFOAM EU Group and the organic wine sector has paid off. Following just a relatively short hiatus after the withdrawal of its initial proposal in early 2010, the European Commission restarted its work for the adoption of implementing rules for organic wine processing.

The biggest challenge was to agree on the maximum levels of sulphites used in organic wines. The Commission accepted the **position** prepared in July 2011 by IFOAM EU Group with the support of the **European Organic Winemaking Carta**, and in November 2011 it integrated this in its draft proposal for the organic wine production implementing rules. In early 2012 the legislation based on IFOAM EU's input was adopted. From now on, this is the binding legal standard for organic wine making.

First Guidelines for Pesticide Residue Contamination

With the publication of its **Guideline for Pesticide Residue Contamination for International Trade in Organic**, the IFOAM EU Group produced a long-awaited reference document. The Guidelines will contribute to the harmonised development of the organic sector in the EU and it provides a practical tool for assessments whenever residue contamination occurs in an organic trading and processing company.

IFOAM EU position on organic processing

IFOAM EU Group repeatedly brought it to the attention of the European Commission that, with the exception of one small adaptation, its detailed technical requirements for processed organic foods, as set out in the EU regulations, have not been revised for several years. IFOAM EU Group considers this a shortcoming, as the list of additives and processing aids permitted in the production of organic foods is out of date. Most importantly, many of these additives are now available in organic form so the regulations should be amended to make their use in this form mandatory. Likewise, flavourings and microorganisms can be derived from organic agriculture and should be used wherever they are available. A register should be prepared in order to publicise the availability of

In 2011, IFOAM EU Group drew on its expertise and its network to ensure that new EU regulations controlling the legal context for organic food and farming in Europe were designed in the best interests of the organic movement.

The regulations in question are **Regulation (EC) No 834/2007** on the production and labelling of organic products, as well as two of its related implementing rules: **Regulation (EC) No 889/2008** including detailed rules on production, labelling and controls, and **Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008** including detailed rules on importing organic products from third countries



“ I share many things with IFOAM EU. As well as representing the organic farming movement, it upholds values of commitment and professionalism to support organic farmers, companies and consumers. I also acknowledge the sensitivity and the human skills that are essential in their daily work. ”

José Luis García Melgarejo,
Managing director of CAAE
Association



IFOAM EU at the Meeting of Ministers of Environment, Gödöllo, Hungary: represented by Director Marco Schlüter (top row, 3rd from left)

1 IFOAM EU GROUP ACTIVITIES

- 7 | Amending EU regulations on organic agriculture
- 10 | Influencing key EU policies
- 17 | Supporting EU research & innovation policies

these organic substances throughout the EU. IFOAM EU Group also lobbied for it to be made obligatory to evaluate the ecological performance of processing and trade operations.

These points were addressed in discussions at the **IFOAM EU Group conference on organic food processing** in Poland, in October 2011. In front of almost 120 participants from across Europe, some 20 speakers (scientists, organic processors, certifiers and traders) presented their views on the most keenly debated issues affecting organic food processing today: imports, pesticide residues, food additives and the sector's ecological performance.

The Commission's report to Council and Parliament on organic regulation

IFOAM EU Group lobbied for the word 'organic' to be given adequate protection in the catering, cosmetics and textiles sectors. As yet, no EU regulations exist to control the use of the term in these fields, so many different private interpretations are possible for what constitutes organic catering, cosmetics and textiles – to the great confusion of consumers.

IFOAM EU Group stressed this issue when it responded to a questionnaire from the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI). The survey involved 27 Member States plus additional stakeholders, including IFOAM EU Group. The responses to this questionnaire formed the basis for a report

on the state of the organic regulation, which DG AGRI was to deliver to the Council and Parliament by the end of 2011.

Call for flexibility of Member States

It should be possible for Member States to develop their organic sectors at different speeds, and different practices should be permitted to reflect their particular national situations. This flexibility will accommodate differing national traditions, cultures and potentials, as well as the different levels of experience in the various organic farming communities. This, in turn, will facilitate the wider take-up of organic practices. The standards can be made gradually more demanding as organic farming develops in each country, with the ultimate aim of adherence to the full principles of organic agriculture.

In 2011 an IFOAM EU Group Flexibility task force advocated this flexible approach to the European Commission, drawing on a **position paper** issued in July.

Regulation of greenhouse production at EU level

IFOAM EU Group set up an expert group on protected cropping and greenhouse production. The group's aim was to produce a proposal for a position on greenhouse production that can be integrated into the existing Regulation (EC) No 889/2008. The group met several times and drafted a position paper that was adopted at the Board meeting in Brussels in November 2011, and was published early in 2012.

Better EU rules for organic poultry production

As the EU rules on organic poultry production are still insufficiently developed, IFOAM EU Group worked on a new **Position paper on Organic Poultry Production and Rearing**, which it published in May 2012. The position paper outlines areas in which the current regulation needs improvement, for example, in the control of stocking densities, length of pop holes, use of disinfectants and access to pasture and verandas.

The IFOAM EU Group position will be taken up by DG AGRI's Expert Group for Technical Advice on Organic Production, and subsequently discussed by the European Commission and the Standing Committee on Organic Farming.

Organic livestock feed to be obligatory, according to availability

IFOAM EU Group reacted to a set of draft amendments published by the European Commission concerning the requirements for animal feeds. These include a proposal to reduce the proportion of non-organic content in feed for monogastric animals to one per cent (originally five per cent) and to increase the minimum proportion of feed that must be sourced in the holding or local area to 60% from 50%. IFOAM EU Group's concern regarding this proposal was that, while the changes are ultimately desirable, they are not immediately practicable in some Member States, which have a shortage of suitable protein sources and are unable to produce sufficient organic feed in the region.

IFOAM EU Group therefore set up a task force and expressed its position in letters dated **27 September** and **20 October**. IFOAM EU Group recommended that up to four per cent conventional content should be allowed in the feed, until the end of 2015, and called for the removal of all unprocessed grains from the list of permitted conventional feed components. It also voiced concern about additional rules being applied to the feed for young animals, and about the use of synthetic amino acids in organic feeding.

Controls on imports

In 2011 the process of improving the rules that control the importation of organic products into the EU gathered pace. At the **IFOAM EU Conference on organic processing** in October 2011, the EU processes and plans were hotly debated. The sector's concerns regarding the process resulted in the creation of an IFOAM EU task force on imports. The task force is to publish its recommendations for improving the system in 2012. IFOAM EU Group included its initial views about the changes in its contribution to consultations with the Commission for report to council and parliament.

Regulations

IFOAM EU Group activities

IFOAM EU Group also asserted its positions by contributing to a number of expert working groups.

Expert Group for Technical Advice on Organic Production (EGTOP)

The **Expert Group for Technical Advice on Organic Production** was established in 2010 to evaluate techniques and methods in organic farming and processing, and to provide the Commission with independent advice on and the development of new rules. In 2011 it published a report addressing amendments to the regulations covering fertilisers and soil conditioners, as well as feed and plant protection products. The European Commission drew on this report when it formulated its legal proposals for amendments to the Regulation (EC) No 889/2008.

IFOAM EU Group provides input to EGTOP in the form of technical dossiers.

Advisory Group Organic Farming (AGOF)

The **Advisory Group Organic Farming** is one of the main stakeholder groups that advises the Commission on matters related to organic farming. It is a significant body consisting of numerous European NGOs, and is currently chaired by President of IFOAM EU Group, Christopher Stopes. As a key stakeholder in AGOF, IFOAM EU Group can use it to make important inputs into the work of the Commission. The most important topics discussed in 2011 were organic feeds, wine, imports, processing rules, the CAP, ecolabelling, research and a roadmap toward a resource-efficient Europe.

Standing Committee on Organic Farming (SCOF)

This is the European Commission's regulatory committee, and is comprised of representatives from the agricultural ministries of all the Member States. The committee members are involved in the adoption of amendments to Commission Regulations 889/2008 and 1235/2008. IFOAM EU Group supplies the members with information sources and position papers, thereby ensuring that the committee is fully aware of its views and positions.



IFOAM EU Group conference on organic food processing in Poland. From left to right: Krystyna Ozga, Vice President of Lodz-province, Dorota Metera, BIOEKSPERT, Christopher Stopes, IFOAM EU Group President

Influencing key EU policies

New legislation on novel foods

Experts from IFOAM EU Group have been monitoring the updates made to the novel foods legislation in three main areas of concern.

» Nanotechnology

Before any decisions can be made about the use of nanotechnologies in the food sector, a proper impact evaluation must be carried out, together with a detailed risk assessment regarding the effects of nano-particles on human and animal health, and on the environment.

In general, IFOAM EU Group views nanotechnology as being incompatible with the principles of organic agriculture. Even though nanotechnology has not been outlawed under the EU's organic regulations, a number of private organisations have already banned it in their standards and producers are avoiding its use.

» Animal cloning

IFOAM EU Group called for a ban on animal cloning for food production in the EU, and also for a ban on the import and sale of food products originating from cloned animals or their offspring.

Currently only the organic regulation (EC) No 834/2007 prohibits the cloning of animals.

» Labelling of animal products from animals fed with GMOs

IFOAM EU Group also stressed the need to label animal products that have been produced from livestock fed on genetically modified feeds.

In March 2011, after three years of discussing the Commission proposal, negotiations taking place in the Conciliation Committee on novel foods failed. This Committee, which consists of representatives from the European Parliament and Council in equal number, found no consensus on the inclusion of food derived from the offspring of cloned animals. The European Parliament had argued for the inclusion of rules commensurate with the IFOAM EU position, whereas both the Council and the Commission were reluctant. Their arguments against a ban included its technical feasibility and practical implications.

EU Ecolabelling – not for organic produce!

The EU **Ecolabel** is a voluntary label that is meant to identify products and services that have a reduced environmental impact.

IFOAM EU Group positioned itself clearly against the EU Ecolabel for food, which was being pushed by DG Environment, as well as the conventional food industry and retailers. Extending the EU Ecolabel to food would result in two competing labels (Organic and Ecolabel) based on similar characteristics and attributes (absence of chemical fertilisers, pesticides and GMOs, good animal welfare, etc.). This will evidently be confusing to consumers. Moreover, IFOAM EU

Group also argued that a legal barrier exists, since terms such as 'eco', 'eko' or 'öko', which are used for organic products, are protected under EU legislation.

The advocacy work of IFOAM EU Group paid off. In early 2012 the Commission decided to not introduce the Ecolabel for food!

Read IFOAM EU Group's **letter to the Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development**

For a green, fair and smarter Common Agricultural Policy – IFOAM EU on the CAP

Through targeted lobbying and by participating in key policy events and debates, IFOAM EU Group successfully highlighted the important role organic farming plays in the overall context of European food and farming systems, whether through the production of high quality food or the protection of natural resources and promotion of sustainability. It clearly demonstrated that organic farming needs to be presented accordingly in the structures of the new CAP.

IFOAM EU Group submitted a **response to the Commission's consultation process** on the CAP. In its **letters** to the Commission it also emphasised the importance of making the CAP much greener as a whole and stressed the need for a strong budget for the second pillar, with special emphasis on the environment and rural communities.

Significant events (a selection)

» **January:** Contributions to a specially enlarged **Commission Advisory Group** on the CAP Towards 2020, the Quality Package and Milk

» **May/June:** Host of the **5th European Organic Congress on Organic Farming as an opportunity for European Agriculture**, in Gödöllő, Hungary

» **June:** Participation in the **informal meeting of the Agriculture Council** in Debrecen, Hungary; organisation of a workshop on organic farming during the **informal meeting of Rural Development Directors** in Eger, Hungary

» **October:** Seminar on **The future of food and farming** jointly organised with the European Network of Organic Agriculture Students (**ENOAS**), in Lyon

Significant publications (a selection)

» Factsheet series **The Truth behind the CAP: 13 reasons for green reform**, in cooperation with other NGOs

» Cartoon **Our long term food Security is in your hands** in partnership with other civil society organisations; published in *The Parliament Magazine*

Policies

IFOAM EU Group activities

Common Agricultural Policy – The policy context in a nutshell

In 2011, discussions continued about the future of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) 2014–2020. Above all, the Member States and Members of the European Parliament debated the **Commission Communication on the CAP towards 2020**.

- » **March:** a majority of Member States ratified the Hungarian **EU Presidency Conclusions**
- » **June:** the European Parliament adopted the so-called **Dess Report**
- » **October:** the European Commission published CAP **Legal Proposals**

For the first time, the legislative process entered into a joint decision making stage involving the Council and the Parliament. Final agreement on the reform is expected in mid-2013, with the new CAP coming into effect on 1 January 2014.



© John Portelli

“

The 5th European Organic Congress in Hungary was, without any doubt, politically and strategically the most important meeting for the organic sector so far in Central Europe.

Karolina Dytrtova (CZ),
Vice President of IFOAM EU

”



© John Portelli

Organics to be prioritised in promotion measures for agricultural products!

IFOAM EU Group welcomed an attempt by the European Commission to reinforce the promotion of European agricultural products and stressed that organic products deserve to be given priority in this promotion campaign.

In July 2011, the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission issued a **Green Paper on promotion measures and information provision for agricultural products: a reinforced value-added European strategy for promoting the tastes of Europe**. The purpose of this document was to open a debate pending a fundamental review of the current information and promotion measures for agricultural products, which form one of the instruments of the CAP. All the stakeholders – consumers, producers, distributors and authorities – should be involved in shaping a new promotion and information strategy. Such a strategy could considerably improve the benefits derived from the considerable resources available in Europe's farming and agri-food sector.

IFOAM EU Group reacted to the Commission's Green Paper with a **letter**, in which it stressed that the organic sector can enhance and can play a key role in the promotion of sustainable production and consumption of food.

Resource efficiency – the role of organics

In 2011 the main theme of the European Commission's environmental policy was the increasing scarcity of natural resources. In September, the Commission published the **'Roadmap to a Resource-Efficient Europe'** as part of its **flagship initiative for a resource-efficient Europe under the Europe 2020 strategy**.

IFOAM EU Group picked up on the issue of resource efficiency and highlighted the part organic farming plays in ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources.

» **May:** IFOAM EU **exhibition stand** at the Brussels **'Green Week'** for resource efficiency

» **8 November: Round-table discussion in DG Environment.** Five representatives of IFOAM EU Group joined a roundtable with Commission officials from the Directorates General for Environment, for Agriculture, and for Climate. A presentation by Carlo Leifert, Professor for Ecological Agriculture at Newcastle University, underlined IFOAM EU Group's position by showing the expected dramatic decline in farm input resources such as phosphorus, and explaining why organic farming practices can help improve the resilience of our food system to this challenge.

» **9 November:** In cooperation with TP Organics and the Greens/EFA, IFOAM EU Group held the **conference 'Resource efficiency and food security – opportunities and challenges for sustainable food systems'**. This event addressed a number of crosscutting issues related to resource efficiency in agriculture, such as Europe's protein deficit, the impacts of European livestock production on third-party countries, the depletion of vital nutrients, the role of consumers, the need for a paradigm shift, and the role of innovation and the knowledge-based bio-economy.

» **December: Publication** of the brochure **'Resource efficiency and organic farming - facing up to the challenge'**.

Promoting organic aquaculture

In 2011 IFOAM EU Group strengthened its relationship with the **Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries**. To present the position of the organic sector, IFOAM EU Group participated in meetings dealing with aquaculture, fish, shellfish and molluscs, organised by the Advisory Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture (ACFA). IFOAM EU Group's main contribution was to promote organic aquaculture and seaweed as ways of making aquaculture sustainable, both in Europe and worldwide. The organic approaches should be recognised in the EU's upcoming aquaculture policies, and in the reforms to the Common Fisheries Policies.



“Natural resources such as fossil fuels and phosphorus will become increasingly scarce in the future. This is a major challenge for our food security. Organic farming with its almost closed nutrient cycles and rich crop rotations including leguminous crops shows ways for the food production for the future. The IFOAM EU Group plays an important part in bringing solutions for sustainable farm systems to the attention of EU policy makers.”

Martin Häusling, Member of the European Parliament, Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development



Promoting the 5th European Organic Congress in Hungary at BioFach 2011. From left to right: Jozsef Angyan, State Secretary for Parliamentary Relations, Hungarian Ministry of Rural Development, Eva Acs, Hungarian Board Member of IFOAM EU, Christopher Stopes, IFOAM EU President

Biodiversity

In its policy activities, IFOAM EU Group stressed the importance of biodiversity as the foundation of all agriculture.

» **CAP** – For measures which support the conservation and restoration of biodiversity to succeed, strong support must be provided for the second pillar of the CAP. This was a recurring issue in informal talks and meetings involving European environmental and agricultural ministers, and rural development directors. The point was underlined during the European Organic Congress in Hungary, especially as part of the CAP discussion.

» **Agro-biodiversity** – In its **reaction to a Commission stakeholder consultation**, IFOAM EU Group emphasised the importance of revising legislation on the marketing of seed and plant propagating materials to include measures for the

protection of biodiversity. At a roundtable meeting, European Commission officials and seed experts from the organic sector (breeders and farmers) discussed the specific problems related to this legislation, and also talked about other measures to maintain and further develop agro-biodiversity.

» **Seeds** – Representatives of the IFOAM EU Group's 'Seed' task force spoke at the conference **'Seeds for a sustainable future'** in the European Parliament.

Selected positions and publications

» **Press release** on the EU 2020 biodiversity strategy

» **Press release** on the conclusions of the EU Biodiversity strategy

» Article **'How to make farms rich in biodiversity'**, published in the newsletter of the European Parliament intergroup on biodiversity

Organic farming and climate change

IFOAM EU Group used several events in 2011 to raise awareness about the potential benefits of organic agriculture for climate change mitigation and as a buffer against the negative effects of climate change.

» **February:** At the international organic trade fair BioFach, IFOAM EU Group cooperated with IFOAM World and the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) in organising a **workshop** and presented the joint **IFOAM and IFOAM EU advocacy strategy on climate change**.

» **October:** IFOAM EU Group organised and participated in the **Round Table on Organic Agriculture and Climate Change (RTOACC)**. The meeting included discussions with representatives of the European Commission's Directorates-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, for Development and for Climate.

» **October:** On 18 October, in a **seminar** entitled **'Agriculture in times of climate change'** held at the European Parliament, IFOAM EU Group explored the role of organic agriculture in mitigation of, and adaptation to climate change.

Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)

IFOAM EU Group achieved a major lobbying success with respect to GMOs when Director Marco Schlüter was able to present the views of the organic sector during a **hearing of the European Commission** in October. He outlined the **socio-economic costs for the organic sector of GMO cultivation**. Often the introduction of GMOs can threaten the very existence of organic farms in the same locations. Strict rules are therefore needed to prevent any contamination of the GMO-free food chain.

GMO-free seed

Leading an alliance of farmers' groups and associations of food businesses, seed producers and beekeepers, IFOAM EU Group wrote a **letter to the MEPs** serving on the Agriculture and Environment committee, advocating the maintenance of GMO-free seed, when they were required to vote on the **Lepage report**.

This lobby work was very successful. Any attempts in the final text to weaken the standards controlling the use of GMO in seed were abandoned.



“Climate change comes as a challenge for European agriculture – farmers can contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and they will need to make their farms more resilient to the consequences of climate change. Organic farming provides a set of farm practices that can support these goals. Therefore, it should play an important role in future rural development programmes. IFOAM EU Group provides excellent opportunities for information and discussion, through which EU policy makers can learn how to promote organic farming practices within the EU policy framework and help us face the climate challenge.”

Elisabeth Köstinger, MEP



Policy Leader Panel during the 5th European Organic Congress. Left to Right: Marek Sawicki, Polish Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development; Sándor Fazekas, Hungarian Minister for Rural Development; Marco Schlüter, Director IFOAM EU Group; Dacian Ciolos, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development; Christopher Stopes, President of the IFOAM EU Group

Stakeholder consultation on GMO risk assessment

IFOAM EU Group provided inputs **in response to a consultation on the environmental risk assessment** (ERA) of GMOs, which was launched in March by the Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Consumers. The consultation procedure followed draft guidelines on ERA published by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). IFOAM EU Group criticised EFSA's relationship with the agro-industrial sector, as a result of which the supposedly neutral organisation had presented documents that failed to adequately observe the precautionary principle.

IFOAM EU Group also lobbied for the integration of socio-economic impacts of GMOs in the impact assessment of genetically modified products.

National bans on GMO cultivation

On 5 July the European Parliament voted to allow Member States to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of GMOs in their territory. IFOAM EU Group **welcomed** the plan to enact EU legislation which will at last

oblige all Member States to take appropriate measures to avoid the unintended presence of GMOs in other products. It also underlined the need for EU-wide legislation that provides full protection for the environment and for human and animal health, and which will ensure the economic viability of the GMO-free food and feed sector.

Animal welfare – Screening of 'Pig Business'

The IFOAM principles of organic farming insist that animals should be provided with living conditions that accord with their physiology, natural behaviour and well-being. At the Brussels screening of the film **'Pig Business – the true cost of cheap meat'**, IFOAM EU Group's policy manager, Antje Kölling, spoke out in support of sustainable farming approaches which respect animal welfare, and called for the necessary changes to the CAP to achieve this. The event at the European Parliament was attended by more than 200 MEPs, assistants and NGO representatives.



Pig Business event in the European Parliament. From left: Mute Schimpf, Food Campaigner Friends of the Earth Europe, Antje Kölling, Policy Coordinator IFOAM EU Group

Supporting EU research & innovation policies

In 2011 TP Organics participated in a number of high-level European **events**, to advocate the inclusion of organic food and farming in EU research policies.

» **22 March: BECOTEPS** (Bio-Economy Technology Platforms) closing event: **Unlocking the potential of the bio-economy**

» **8–11 May: BtoBio International Exhibition**, Milan
TP Organics and its Italian arm, PT Bio, held a workshop entitled **Opportunities in innovation and technological development for Italian organic companies**. This looked at how to deal with the challenges facing the organic sector, such as consumer demand, GMOs and direct marketing.

» **27 April: Realising the ETP ambitions through cooperation with EUREKA in the area of agro-food and bio-based economy**, a conference in Brussels examining how European TPs could benefit from cooperation with the EU Commission platform, **EUREKA**, for European entrepreneurs dealing with research and development. TP Organic's interest was to establish just such a cooperation arrangement.

» **4–5 May: Sustainable food consumption and production in a resource-constrained world**, a conference in Budapest, Hungary, organised by DG Research & Innovation and the Hungarian EU Presidency, where the **report** from the Third Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR) was presented. The purpose of this committee was to refocus efforts on the necessary transition towards agriculture and food systems in a resource-constrained world. The conference conclusions were summarised in the **Budapest Declaration**.

» **22 June: Sustainable food chains for a European Strategy and Action Plan towards a sustainable knowledge-based bio-economy by 2020**, a conference in the European Parliament, organised jointly by IFOAM EU Group and its partners as a contribution to the discussion about appropriate areas for future research.

» **13 July: Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on the Common Strategic Framework (CSF) for Research and Innovation (Horizon 2020)**, organised by the European Commission. TP Organics raised the need for more bottom-



TP Organics is the only technology platform (TP) that deals specifically with organic food and farming research. Since its establishment in 2007 it has integrated the views of the organic sector and civil society to present a broad perspective on research, development and innovation priorities that can leverage the potential of organic food and farming to address contemporary challenges.

The secretariat of TP Organics is hosted by IFOAM EU Group. IFOAM EU Group provides strategic advice to the platform, and both organisations benefit from a synergy effect as they carry out their joint mission to promote EU research projects that focus on organic food and farming.

The membership of TP Organics currently consists of 20 EU-based umbrella organisations that support research into sustainable agriculture, as well as environmental and consumer protection. In addition to these, there are 20 small and medium-sized enterprises and three national technology platforms for organic research (in Hungary, Italy and Croatia). Another national platform is now being established in Spain.

up approaches, and stronger interdisciplinary and crosscutting research work, and highlighted the importance of continuity in research activities.

» **13–14 September: Knowledge based bio-economy towards 2020**, a conference organised by the Belgian EU Presidency. The bio-economy concept groups together all sectors of the economy that produce and process biological resources from both land and sea, under a single umbrella. The bio-economy strategy and action plan are intended to encourage greater coherence between the various policies and funding instruments.

» **11 November: Resource Efficiency and Food Security: Opportunities and Challenges for Sustainable Food Systems**, a conference organised by IFOAM EU Group, TP Organics and Martin Häusling, Member of the European Parliament. Experts from scientific and political backgrounds shared their thoughts on the question of how a growing population can be fed without placing a greater burden the environment.

Policies, policy processes, and the activities of TP Organics

Commission: European Strategy and Action Plan towards a sustainable bio-based economy by 2020

April and May 2011 were a crucial two months for the definition of future EU research concepts, including the 8th Framework Research Programme for the period 2014 to 2020 and of the knowledge-based bio-economy. In accordance with the aims of IFOAM EU Group, TP Organics worked to ensure organic food and farming would be included as an important aspect of innovation in the research programmes that were scheduled to be adopted by the end of 2011.

The Directorate General for Research conducted two public consultations. TP Organics participated in these consultations by way of the standard questionnaires. However, it also took the opportunity to submit its own concepts and suggestions in consolidated papers.

Green Paper on a Common Strategic Framework for future EU research and innovation funding

As well as completing the Commission's questionnaire, TP Organics responded to this consultation with a **position paper** which aimed to provide some more general suggestions and comments on the Green Paper, and to make some clear proposals regarding the structure of the future EU Research Framework

Programme. In particular, TP Organics also wanted to address the Commission's proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

Bio-based economy for Europe: state of play and future potential

TP Organics' **position paper** in response to this consultation outlined the ways in which organic farming and agro-ecological approaches might interact with a European bio-economy. TP Organics stressed the need for a bio-economy concept that unequivocally promotes the truly sustainable development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries and the related industries.

Horizon 2020

In November 2011 the European Commission presented a package of measures intended to improve research, innovation and competitiveness in Europe under the **Horizon 2020** framework. This new funding programme will run from 2014 to 2020 and has a budget of EUR 80 billion. It unites all the EU's research and innovation funding in a single programme.



The Commission has stepped up its financial support for the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). This body is intended to bring together higher education institutions, research centres and businesses to encourage entrepreneurship in the future. Funding for the European Research Council will rise by 77% and there will be further support for international cooperation as part of Horizon 2020.

TP Organics contributed its own inputs regarding the relevant proposals issued earlier in the year, prior to the release of this package. It specifically advocated measures in support of research projects on eco-functional intensification as well as socioeconomic research, and it highlighted the importance of diversity through the whole food chain. Following the release of the package of measures, TP Organics established an ad hoc working group in order to analyse the document in detail and to propose amendments to it.

Education & Innovation Action Plan

TP Organics started work on an Education & Innovation Action Plan, which act as a guide for education in the field of agriculture. The plan should establish a strategic framework with which to appraise current education projects and propose improvements that will enhance agricultural education outcomes. The plan aims to create an 'effective agricultural education model'.

Priority topics for 2013

In September, TP Organics delivered to the Directorate General for Research and Innovation a list of topics that should be considered as high priority for the 7th Framework Programme and the working programme 2013. These topics relate to the ongoing debate on how organic farming systems can help overcome the major challenges of food production, including weakened food security, the loss of biodiversity, and climate change. They also support the improvement of livelihoods in rural areas at a time of diminishing natural resources and the contribution of organic farming to preventing modern diseases, such as allergies.



© John Portelli

“

Innovation is crucial for farmers to react to future environmental challenges and to make their living on changing food markets. IFOAM EU Group reminds EU policy makers regularly that innovation must be a comprehensive concept which includes new approaches of farmers' cooperation, participatory research and breeding, diversification of incomes, crop rotations, marketing as well as farm organisation and management. IFOAM EU Group highlights the importance of organic farming as a source of innovative practices to EU policy makers, giving important inputs for the decision making process on the new EU research framework Horizon 2020 and European Innovation policies.

”

Paolo de Castro, Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development in the European Parliament



© Lena Wietheger



The office team of IFOAM EU Group

2 IFOAM EU GROUP IN A NUTSHELL

21 | People

24 | Finances

People

IFOAM EU Group in a nutshell

People

Executive board



Vice-president:
Thomas Dosch (DE)



Treasurer:
Jose Luis Garcia Melgarejo (ES)



Vice-president (processing):
Bavo van den Idsert (NL)



President:
Christopher Stopes (UK)



Vice-president (policy):
Thomas Fertl (AU)



Vice-president:
Karolina Dyrtova (CZ)



Vice-president (research):
Otto Schmid (CH)



Vice-president (regulation):
Sabine Eigenschink (AU)

Check our website for more
information on the **executive board**.

IFOAM EU Group board

1. Austria Sabine Eigenschink Thomas Fertl	12. Hungary Éva Sándorné Ács Éva Cellerné Daróczy	23. Portugal Jaime Manuel Carvalho Ferreira Alexandra Maurer da Costa
2. Belgium Leen Laenens Sylvie Morcillo	13. Iceland Olafur Dyrmondsson Gunnar Gunnarsson	24. Romania Damian Dragomir Ion Toncea
3. Bulgaria Albena Simeonova (Interim appointment as observer until elected)	14. Ireland Evelin Gill Grace Maher	25. Slovakia Zuzana Lehocka Marta Klimekova
4. Cyprus Savvas Mouzakis Marinela Sofokleous	15. Italy Andrea Ferrante Antonio Compagnioni Riccardo Cozzo	26. Slovenia Anamarija Slabe Boris Fras
5. Czech Republic Karolina Dyrtrtova Katerina Nesrstrova	16. Latvia Mairita Bluma Dzidra Kreismane	27. Spain Victor Gonzalez Jose Luis Garcia Melgarejo Évelyne Alcázar Marín
6. Denmark Sybille Kyed Evald Vestergaard	17. Lithuania Antanas Svirskis	28. Sweden Marianne Schonning Kjell Sjudahl-Svensson
7. Estonia Merit Mikk Airi Vetemaa	18. Luxembourg Raymond Aendekerck	29. Switzerland Otto Schmid Hans Ramseier
8. Finland Elisa Niemi Mikko Rahtola	19. Malta John Portelli Mario Salerno	30. Turkey Seda Orhan Defranceschi
9. France David Peyremorte Cécile Frissur	20. Netherlands Marian Blom Bavo van Idsert	31. United Kingdom Chris Atkinson Christopher Stopes Lawrence Woodward
10. Germany Alexander Gerber Alexander Beck Jan Plagge	21. Norway Gerald Altena Grete Serikstad	
11. Greece Konstantinos Dritsas Sotiris Babagiouris	22. Poland Dorota Metera Ewa Rembalkowska	

For more information about the board of the IFOAM EU Group, please visit the **IFOAM EU website**.

Office staff 2011

Director:

Marco Schlüter

Horizontal functions:

Head of Communication:

Lena Wietheger

Communication assistant:

Stephen Turner (from September)

Project Coordinator:

Cinzia Tegoni (until April)

Josefine Johannson (from April)

Project Assistant:

Maya Hernando (from October)

Financial Officer:

Sevelina Todorova (until January)

Financial and Legal Officer:

Elzbieta Kaminska (from January)

Office and Events Coordinator:

Angela Morell Perez

Policy unit:

Policy Manager:

Antje Kölling

Policy Assistant:

Stephen Meredith (from November)

Policy Assistant:

Rishi Kukreja (from September)

Policy & Regulation Area:

Food Legislation Coordinator:

Andrzej Szeremeta

Regulation unit:

Regulation Coordinator:

Camilla Mikkelsen (until July)

Interims Regulation Coordinator:

Andrzej Szeremeta

Regulation Advisor (Freelancer):

Keith Ball

Research unit:

TP Organics Coordinator:

Eduardo Cuoco

For the contact information of IFOAM EU staff check the **website**.

Trainees 2011

Audrey Malherbe (BE)

October 2010–February 2011:

Project and Research trainee

Cyrille Cornerotte (BE)

November 2010–April 2011:

Regulation, research and administration trainee

Sofia Baruffol (BE)

January 2011–July 2011:

Policy trainee

Josefine Johansson (SE)

January–April 2011:

Policy and Project trainee

Stephen Turner (CA)

January–August 2011:

Communication trainee

Christoph Furtsczegger

April 2011–September 2011:

Maya Hernando Calvo (ES)

April–October 2011:

Regulation trainee

Stephen Meredith (IE)

May–October 2011:

Policy Trainee

Pierre Sultana (FR)

April–October 2011:

Regulation trainee

Benny van de Velde (BE)

September 2011–April 2012:

Regulation trainee

Silvia Schiavon (IT)

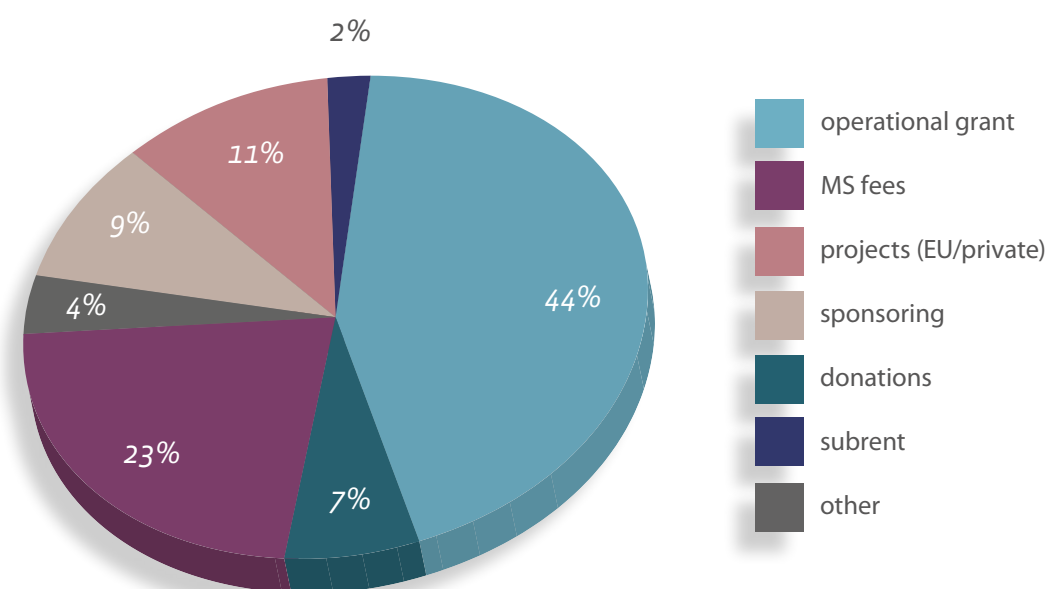
December 2011–June 2012:

Research trainee

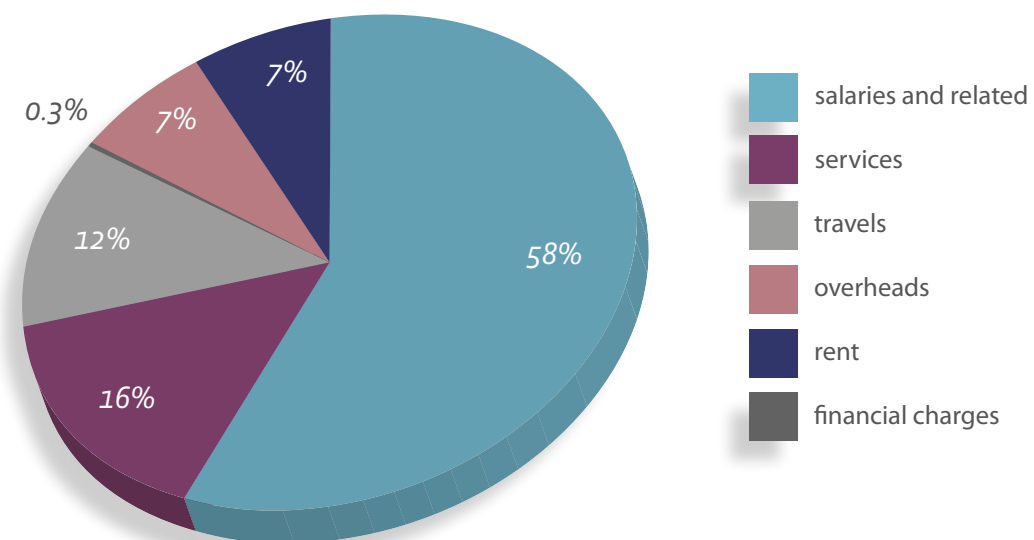
Finances

Income and costs

Structure of IFOAM EU Group's income in 2011



Structure of IFOAM EU Group's costs in 2011



New membership system

At the General Assembly in November 2011, the membership fee system of IFOAM EU Group was fundamentally reformed. Whereas in the past, membership fees were collected by the individual European countries and paid as a 'country contribution', the new system relies on individual payments from organisations. That means that each member organisation now pays directly to IFOAM EU Group, according to its turnover.

The new membership system entered into force on 1 January 2012, from when there will be a transition period of three years during which the fees will be gradually raised. The targeted earnings from membership fees amounting to EUR 260,000 per year should be achieved from 2014 onwards. In the future, membership fees should cover about 40% of IFOAM EU Group's core budget. At present they account for just 23% of the budget. The change in the fee payment system was voted for by 89% of the delegates to the IFOAM EU Group General Assembly.

For more information on IFOAM EU Group's membership system please contact our financial and legal officer, **Elzbieta Kaminska**: +32 2 280 12 52

Finances

IFOAM EU Group in a nutshell



“With the new online newsletter IFOAM EU Group has made a big jump forward in easy and efficient communication with its followers. I congratulate IFOAM EU on putting communication more in the centre of its work!”

Dusan Milenkovic, kides design,
Designer of the EU-bio-leave

Sponsors



The best from nature. The best for nature.



Project partners



EU Commission Directorate
General (DG) Environment



“

'Proud to be part of it' – that is really how I've experienced the intensive cooperation with IFOAM EU over the last years as a key sponsor. All the important work and lobbying, most of it hidden, that is being done for the organic movement will become more and more important. It is therefore time that organic companies start to provide substantial support for this; it is time for them to be part of it as well, and to join and support IFOAM EU.

”

Ronald van Marlen, Ariza



IFOAM EU GROUP
124, rue du Commerce
1000 Brussels
Belgium

info@ifoam-eu.org
Tel : +32 2 280 12 23
Fax : +32 2 735 73 81
www.ifoam-eu.org

