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IFOAM EU
NEWSLETTER

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Eduardo Cuoco, Director of IFOAM EU and Giannis Tsironis, Greek politician and activist, after a successful discussion on the organic regulation, the future of the Common Agriculture Policy, and the Greek Organic Action Plan

WELCOME NOTE

In May 2017, the European Commission's online questionnaire on modernising and simplifying the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), open to all interested citizens and organisations, closed after a 3-month consultation period. Stakeholder views will feed into the ongoing Impact Assessment process culminating with the Commission's forthcoming Communication on the CAP Post-2020 expected to be tabled in the last quarter of 2017. It is too early to judge the outcomes of the consultation and IFOAM EU and other participants will learn more at the **CAP: Have your say conference**, organised by the Commission in Brussels on 7 July. However, what we can say now is that there was strong interest from the public about the future of EU agricultural policy – with over 320,000 submissions from across the EU. Furthermore, preliminary figures show that the vast majority of the replies were submitted by individuals (97%), with the remainder coming from professional organisations including IFOAM EU.

In our submission IFOAM EU called for a fundamentally new approach to farm policy that puts sustainability at the heart of the CAP and creates a more integrated way to support the long-term viability of farmers' incomes and at the same respond to citizens' expectations. As the EU's only certified sustainable food and farming sector, from farm to fork, we believe that organic farmers can play a critical role in contributing to this new farm policy approach, which in the long-term will help to make Europe more organic. For more information about the

CAP and **our ideas for the future**, see the **CAP section** of this newsletter. As we await the next developments in the deliberations on the future of the CAP, other key debates are already in progress – most notably the debate on what's next for Europe in a post-Brexit world following the launch of a **White Paper on the Future of Europe** by Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker in March 2017. The paper sets out 5 scenarios for how the EU could develop by 2025, and has been complemented by a series of reflection papers on different aspects of EU policy which will feed into the debate – published on a rolling basis since the White Paper launch. On the 28th June the Commission published a **reflection paper on the future of the EU finances**, setting out 5 options largely based on the 5 scenarios. While it is too early to fully assess these options, the paper does highlight calls for the CAP to focus further on the provision of public goods, although the definition of what constitutes public goods still needs further scrutiny. Nevertheless, the paper will certainly stimulate the impending debate on the next EU budget post-2020 or Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

Even though the Commission has been keen to stress that the CAP review process does not prejudge in any way the financial allocation for the CAP in the next MFF, it is clear that there will be even greater pressure on the agriculture sector to deliver or face major cuts to agriculture spending. Muscles are already being flexed in Brussels with the President of the European Parliament Antonio Tajani understood to be proposing that the EU

Europe budgetary priorities should move away toward security, immigration, youth unemployment and climate change. The Commission's reflection paper also stresses the need for a more results-based budget and does not rule out cuts to major EU policies including CAP. Currently, the CAP represents 40% of the European budget, and it's not effectively moving European agriculture towards greater sustainability. The organic movement is strongly convinced that a strong and substantial budget must be allocated to agriculture, but only by overhauling agricultural spending priorities and putting sustainability at their heart of the CAP. This should be part of a wider agenda to ensure ambitious implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement (keeping global temperatures well below 2°C) and the UN Sustainable Development Goals across all sectors towards a **Sustainable Europe for Citizens** and a MFF based on **sustainability principles** Post-2020. IFOAM EU will continue to engage in these critical debates and work with EU policymakers and the wider stakeholder community – farmers, civil society groups and industry – to transition our Common Agricultural Policy towards effective **delivery of public money for public benefits**.



Sincerely
Christopher Stopes
IFOAM EU President

POLITICAL HOTSPOT

For the last five years the revision of the organic regulation has been the centre of attention for the organic movement and for many policy-makers in Brussels.

Countless meetings have been held and countless documents have been produced, and discussions have sometimes been stormy.

This long process showed the complexity of the EU law-making process based on the Treaty of Lisbon: many institutions and actors are involved and many divergent positions, needs and requests have to be considered.

The case of the organic regulation is a particular one: it has been the agriculture dossier that was discussed the longest since the Treaty of Lisbon was signed in 2007. The revision of the new organic regulation was announced at the end of 2011, the Commission published its proposal in March 2014, and the Council and the Parliament adopted their positions in 2015.

In November 2015, what was expected to be the final phase of the process was kicked off: the negotiations to reach a so-called agreement in 'first reading' through trilogue negotiations. During these negotiations the three institutions – the Council, the Parliament and the Commission – meet and try to come to a final agreement.

So far, 17 trilogue meetings have taken place under 4 different Presidencies of the Council: Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Slovakia and Malta.

June 2017 was a 'hot month': at the end of May, the Maltese Presidency asked Member States for a mandate in order to negotiate with the other Institutions in the 18th trilogue, planned on 31 May. Surprisingly, Member States rejected Malta's request and the trilogue was cancelled.

The discussion on the organic file was brought to the Council of Ministers again on 12 June, where Ministries agreed – even if not unanimously – to try and continue the negotiations. The Council meeting was chaired by the newly appointed Maltese Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Mr Clint Camilleri, who listened to all the Ministries and wrapped up the conclusions. Minister Camilleri decided to organise bilateral meetings with all the Member States immediately and asked them for a new mandate for negotiation on 26 June. The bilateral meetings took place the same week as the Council of Ministers and the Commission were also involved.

On Thursday 22 June a new text was circulated by the Maltese Presidency to the Member States, and during the meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture on 26 June, long discussions took place among Member States' representatives. The new text was backed by a

majority, with a number of Member States still opposing and others abstaining.

On Wednesday, 28 June the three institutions reached a political agreement on the new organic regulation. The compromise text still needs to be endorsed by the Council and then by both Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the Parliament's plenary.

If all this happens as planned, a new organic regulation will be adopted, which will replace the current Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and which will likely apply from 2020 on. From September on, the institutions and the organic stakeholders will start focussing on the implementation of the new regulation: the delegated and implementing acts which would replace the current Regulations (EC) No 889/2008 and (EC) No 1235/2008.

Still a lot of work ahead of us!

1 NEWS FROM IFOAM EU WORKING FIELDS

1.1 REGULATION

NEW RULES ON FEED FOR AQUACULTURE ANIMALS

The Commission published a new Implementing Regulation 2017/838 on feed for aquaculture animals. The Regulation provides new rules for the feeding of some species of fish; fish in inland waters, salmonids, penaeid shrimps and freshwater prawns, as well as tropical fresh water fish. In the grow-out stages, these species shall be fed with feed naturally available in ponds and lakes.

Regulation 2017/838 entered into force on 21 May 2017.

NEW RULES ON IMPORTS OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES

The Commission published a new Implementing Regulation 2017/872 on imports of organic products from third countries.

The Regulation updates the list of recognised control bodies for third countries. It also amends some provisions regarding the extract of certificate of inspection.

Regulation 2017/872 entered into force on 22 May 2017.

REPORT ON EU IRREGULARITIES TO THE APPLICATION OF ORGANIC REGULATION 889/2008

In March 2017, Organic Farming Information System (OFIS) presented its report on irregularities to the application of Organic Regulation 889/2008 to the Committee on Organic Production. The report gives a general overview of EU products' irregularities and other related notifications by Member States in 2016, with the aim to highlight achievements and point out risks.

The OFIS report is based on Article 92a of EU Regulation 889/2008, that provides rules on how Member States and the Commission should exchange information in case of non-compliant products. Member States shall notify each other, and they should take appropriate action following such notification.

Dear Europe,
Do You Want
MORE BIODIVERSITY?

+34%
more
BIODIVERSITY
on organic farms

Diversity on farms plays
a crucial role in pollination
and sustaining food systems

IFOAM
EU GROUP

Action co-financed by the European Commission, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development.

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SAVE THE DATE

5TH ORGANIC PROCESSING CONFERENCE

16–17 January 2018

Zwolle, The Netherlands

1.2 POLICY

› CLIMATE CHANGE

UPDATE ON THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESSES: NGOs' EUROPEAN DAY OF ACTION AND UPDATE ON THE VOTES IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

On 7 June, NGOs called on their governments for ambitious climate change commitments on the Effort Sharing Regulation, which is currently undergoing the EU co-decision process. NGOs called for action on all sectors covered by the Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR): transport, buildings, waste and agriculture. IFOAM EU participated to this day of action because agriculture should do its fair share to reduce GHG emissions and should not be exempted from any meaningful targets.

IFOAM EU has been closely following the two dossiers – the ESR and the LULUCF (Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry) – during the legislative process in the Parliament.

For the ESR dossier, the vote in the Parliament's Agriculture Committee took place on 3 May and the approved opinion significantly waters down the Commission's initial proposal. The vote in the Parliament's Environment Committee, the lead committee, which took place on 30 May, brought better results, with an improvement of the Commission's proposal and the LULUCF flexibility reduced to 190Mt.

The plenary of the European Parliament voted on the final proposal on 14 June. The targets in the report it adopted are close to the original Commission proposal and keeps the LULUCF flexibility at 280Mt. Another key point in the report is the introduction of an early action reserve for Member States allowing countries to transfer some of the surplus generated from the current period to the upcoming one after 2020. The report was sent back to the Environment Committee by the plenary, so that the Rapporteur gets a mandate to start first reading negotiations with the Council.

The vote on LULUCF in the Agriculture committee took place on 30 May. It amended the Commission's proposal in an undesirable way. Namely, the draft report gives Member States the space to set their forest reference levels with no historical references required. This would allow Member States to hide GHG emissions linked to increasing harvesting of forests, at a time when many countries plan to increase forest exploitation for bioenergy purposes. IFOAM EU is calling for honest and transparent accounting rules and wants that the real impact of land use and forestry on the climate is accounted for. The vote in the Environment committee on LULUCF will take place on 11 July.

For more information, visit [IFOAM EU's climate change page](#).



During the #EUESR day of action, NGOs called for an ambitious Effort Sharing Regulation. Read the letters that were sent to the governments on [Carbon Market Watch's website](#)

Watch our video to see why we need to transform food and farming to combat climate change. The video is available in **English** and in **Spanish**.

A special thank you goes out to **Écovalia** for translating the video into Spanish.

» CAP

IFOAM EU CALLS FOR NEW DEAL BETWEEN FARMERS AND CITIZENS IN COMMISSION PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON CAP

IFOAM EU has called for new deal between farmers and citizens based on the principle of public money for public benefit in the European Commission's Public Consultation on CAP which closed on 2 May 2017. IFOAM EU's submission was one of over 10,000 from professional organisations in addition to over 312,000 individual citizen replies. The submission builds on **IFOAM EU's open letter to the Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Phil Hogan** and key EU officials and representatives from the European Parliament and the Agriculture Council, sent in January. In this letter, IFOAM EU and its farming associations called for a fundamentally new approach to the CAP, that would strengthen the environmental and socio-economic performance of the agri-food sector.

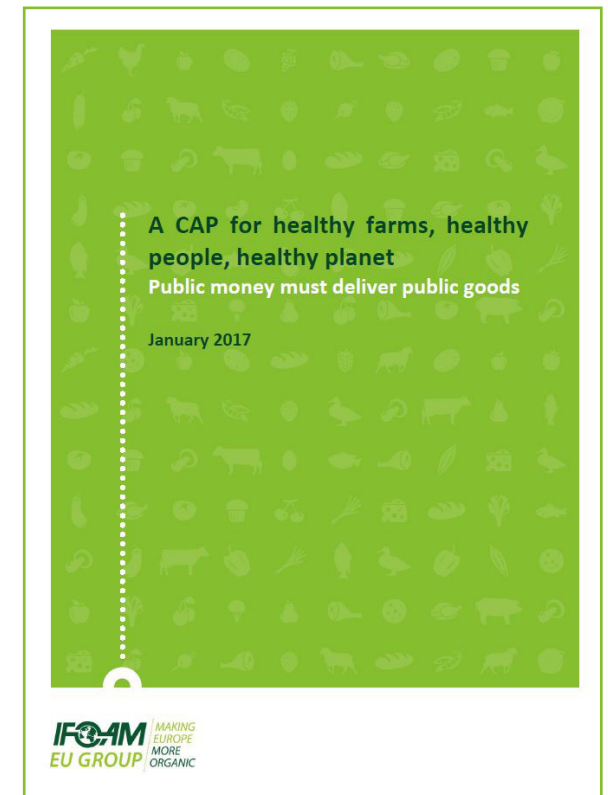
Central to this approach is to make the CAP more effective – over the next decade and a half – in reconciling the needs of farmers and their families to secure a decent living selling their produce into different markets, and the growing calls from society for farmers, in receipt of public money, to deliver good environmental and socio-economic outcomes (which are still not fully accounted for by many markets).

Concretely, IFOAM EU wants to see the CAP post-2020 move to a new model of farm payments which promotes sustainable farming systems based on agroecological outcomes. This includes:

- A public goods payment framework that incentivises and rewards farmers who are delivering a range of environmental and socio-economic services at farm level (100% EU financed);
- Complementary supporting measures covering issues related to farm advice and extension services, supply chain development, infrastructural investments, innovation, organic farming payments, and promotional activities, etc. (nationally co-financed);
- A single pillar structure with one budget, fully orientated to promoting agroecological outcomes – public goods payments representing 80% of the overall EU spending and supporting measures accounting for the remaining 20% by 2034.

The consultation results and a Commission impact assessment are intended to inform the Commission's forthcoming Communication on the next CAP expected to be published in the last quarter of 2017. IFOAM EU is continuing to engage actively with Member States and Commission officials and will participate in the Commission's **"The CAP: Have your say!"** conference taking place on 7 July in Brussels.

Elsewhere, IFOAM EU together with over 150 civil society organisations from across Europe from 25 EU countries have called call for a fundamental reform of the CAP under the slogan **Good Food, Good Farming – Now!**



The organic movement is calling for a fundamentally new approach to the CAP. Consult **our position paper** to learn how we see the future for a CAP capable of supporting sustainable development

IFOAM EU WELCOMES PARLIAMENT SUPPORT FOR BANNING PESTICIDES IN ECOLOGICAL FOCUS AREAS, BUT CAP POST-2020 MUST AIM HIGHER

IFOAM EU welcomed the decision made by MEPs to support the European Commission's proposal to ban pesticides on Ecological Focus Areas (EFAs) in a plenary vote in Strasbourg on 14 June. While the MEPs' decision sends a political signal that agrochemicals are not compatible with agroecological farming practices, IFOAM EU warned MEPs that the CAP post-2020 must aim higher.

In a [press release](#), IFOAM EU called on MEPs to lead the way and go even further with commitments to work towards more fundamental change of the CAP post-2020. It added that with the next reform, the European Commission has the opportunity to promote a full transition of the European agriculture towards sustainable farming and that a new approach to CAP payments that only support farmers delivering for the environment, public health and rural areas should be supported by the Parliament.

Ecological Focus Areas are part of the so-called "greening" measures introduced in the last CAP reform. They foresee that 5% of the arable land of farms above 15 hectares must be primarily devoted to increasing biodiversity on farmland areas. The European Parliament Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development had adopted a resolution to veto a new Commission's proposal to ban pesticides in those areas, but MEPs

sitting in plenary today failed to gather the required majority to veto the proposal by a few votes only.

For more information about the latest developments on the CAP including [IFOAM EU's vision for public goods under the CAP post-2020](#), please contact [stephen.meredith \[at\] ifoam-eu.org](mailto:stephen.meredith@ifoam-eu.org)

CIVIL SOCIETY CALLS FOR AN ALTERNATIVE 'SCENARIO' IN THE FUTURE OF EUROPE DEBATE: MFF POST-2020 MUST BE BASED ON SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES

IFOAM EU, together with a broad range of over 250 civil society organisations in the frame of [SDG Watch Europe](#), have put forward an alternative scenario for the Future of Europe entitled [Scenario 6: Sustainable Europe for its Citizens](#).

It is proposed as an alternative approach to the European Commission's [White Paper on the Future of Europe](#) which was launched in March 2017. The white paper outlines 5 scenarios for how the Union could evolve by 2025. The '6th Scenario' sets out why and how the European Union can become a driver for sustainability in Europe and beyond by 2025, with a special focus on delivering on [the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals](#) and full implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement.

The '6th Scenario' is framed in the context of the EU's so called Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) Post-2020 with the aim of rethinking EU budgetary priorities

and planning to advance this alternative for the future of Europe. Related to this initiative, SDG Watch Europe is also calling for [8 Sustainable Principles](#) to be embedded in the Future EU Budget. Such an approach could help advance many of the key themes in Scenario 6, and put sustainability at the heart of the European project.

Both '[Scenario 6](#)' and the MFF Sustainability Principles call were launched ahead of the Commission's reflection paper on the future of EU Finances tabled on 28 June 2017. The paper is part of a series of Commission papers published after the adoption of the White Paper which serve to contribute to the debate on the future of Europe to 2025 and inform the discussions on the MFF Post-2020. Commission President Jean Claude Juncker is expected to give his first ideas on how to take the Future of Europe initiative forward in his State of the Union speech in September 2017, with the Heads of State and Government due to draw their first conclusions at the December 2017 European Council. Elsewhere the Commission is scheduled to launch its proposals for the MFF Post-2020 in 2018. As these discussions are expected to influence the future of food and farming policy – notably the CAP reform Post-2020 – IFOAM EU will continue to actively monitor this political process and its developments. For further information, please contact [stephen.meredith \[at\] ifoam-eu.org](mailto:stephen.meredith@ifoam-eu.org)



CAP PAYMENTS LINKED TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC OUTCOMES CAN HELP ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF LAND CONCENTRATION AND FACILITATE ACCESS TO LAND, SAY MEPS

MEPs have highlighted the importance of linking CAP payments to the delivery of environmental and socio-economic outcomes to address the issue of land concentration and facilitate access to land. In a new resolution, entitled “**State of play of farmland concentration in the EU: how to facilitate the access to land for farmers?**” adopted on 27 April, the European Parliament states that direct payments would offer better value for money if they were payable based on the public goods a farm delivers, rather than solely on the land area it covers. The resolution is a starting point to address land grabbing, land concentration and to facilitate access to land for organic and agroecologically managed new and existing farms. Other key demands from the European Parliament to the European Commission outlined in the resolution also include:

- The adoption of recommendations and EU guidance on land governance based on the **UN Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT)** unanimously endorsed by the Committee of World Food Security

- The establishment of a land observatory to collect information and data on farmland concentration and tenure in the EU as well as purchase prices and rents, tenants, the loss of farmland due to changes in land use, and trends in soil fertility and land erosion
- A high-level taskforce to examine the impact of EU policies such as the CAP on land concentration

The final resolution follows a **petition on Preserving and managing European farmland as our common wealth** submitted to the European Parliament in 2015. The petition initiated by organisations European Confederation **La Via Campesina** and **Terre de Liens** was supported by IFOAM EU and a broad range of other civil society organisations. IFOAM EU will continue to monitor the political process.

On 20 June, IFOAM EU participated to the **Access to land in Europe: Learning from the Field conference** and highlighted how a rethink of subsidies under the CAP Post-2020 based on the principle of public money for public goods could better facilitate access to land for sustainable agriculture. Visit the **European Access to Land website** or contact **stephen.meredith [at] ifoam-eu.org** for more information.



COMMISSION ADOPTS ACTION PLAN FOR BETTER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU BIRDS AND HABITATS DIRECTIVES

The European Commission has published an **Action Plan for nature, people and the economy** as part of efforts to improve their implementation of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives and boost their contribution in reaching the targets set out in the EU's Biodiversity Strategy for 2020. The Action Plan focuses on four priority areas and comprises 15 actions to be carried out between now and 2019. It is accompanied by a **Commission Staff Working Document** providing more information on each of the 15 actions. The adoption of the Action Plan follows a Fitness Check Evaluation of the Birds and Habitats Directives between 2014 and 2016 which found that the Directives are fit for purpose, but greater efforts are needed for more effective implementation.

At the same time the mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020, tabled in 2015, found that the agriculture sector has not made major progress in delivering on the EU's biodiversity commitments to 2020. As part of its input to the European Commission's public consultation on "Fitness Check" evaluation IFOAM EU called for better targeted implementation of the Directives. It also stressed that biodiversity loss and environmental degradation need to be addressed both inside and outside the Natura 2000 network, adding that the best way to encourage farmland biodiversity and to protect high nature value farmland areas was to create a more supportive policy environment for organics – using the CAP and other related agri-food policies.

› GMOs

THE EUROPEAN AGENDA ON NEW GENETIC ENGINEERING TECHNIQUES (NGETs)

Will new genetic engineering techniques (NGETs) be regulated as GMOs? This crucial debate, both for the organic sector and the entire food chain, is still ongoing in the European Union. Its conclusion will have huge impacts on the capacity of the organic sector to remain GMO-free: if they would be included in the scope of the GMO legislation, these NGETs would be subject to prior authorization, risk assessment, labelling and traceability. The issue will come up several times on the European agenda in the next months.

The European Court of Justice will give its interpretation on the scope of the GMO legislation regarding these NGETs before mid-2018. This decision could finally settle the issue, if the GMOs legislation is not re-opened afterwards. At the moment, six countries (AT, EL, FR, NL, SE, UK) and the European Commission shared their opinion in the court case. The opinions so far are divided.

Meanwhile, the European Commission will organize, **a conference in Brussels on Modern Biotechnologies in agriculture on the 28th September**. Jan Plagge, Vice President of the Board of IFOAM EU, will represent the position of the **organic movement**: NGETs should be considered GMOs, and, as such, should fall within the scope of the GMOs legislation.

Save the date and join the conference to help ensure that the voice of organic movements is heard!

› FOOD, FARMING AND ENVIRONMENT

MEPs RECOGNISE ORGANIC PRODUCTION RULES UNDER THE REVISION OF EU'S FERTILISERS RULES

MEPs have highlighted the need to recognise the EU organic production rules as part of the revision of the EU's fertiliser marketing laws. In Opinions from both the **Agriculture Committee** (COMAGRI) and the **Environment Committee** (COMENVI) on the **Commission's proposal**, MEPs stressed the importance of avoiding the confusion between fertilisers products bearing the term 'organic', 'bio' or 'eco' to address the situations where such products may not be permitted in organic farming. The terms 'organic', 'bio' or 'eco' are recognised and protected for food production, but such terms do not fall under the scope of the EU legislation for non-food products.

The issue is of great importance for the organic movement due the proposal of the Commission that substances below 5% will not be mandatory included on the CE fertiliser labelling. This could lead to farmers using substances incompatible with organic principles, as a result of confusing labelling.

IFOAM EU believes that all substances contained in a fertiliser product should be clearly labelled. The COMAGRI opinion has proposed to reduce the threshold to 1%.

Elsewhere, COMENVI, who has exclusive competence on contaminants, has called for a shorter timeline for imposing cadmium limits on phosphate in fertilisers opting for 9 years instead of 12 years. The limits aim to reduce cadmium accumulation and minimise the negative impact of such fertiliser use on the environment and on human health.

The Opinions from both COMAGRI and COMENVI will feed into the European Parliament's final position which is led by the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee (IMCO). IMCO will vote on its **draft report** at the European Parliament Plenary in July 2017.



IFOAM EU staff visiting 't Reigershof organic goat farm at Klemskerke De Haan, Belgium. Photo credits: Triin Viilvere

1.3 EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION POLICY / TP ORGANICS

EIP-AGRI UPDATE: CALL FOR EXPERTS FOR NEW FOCUS GROUPS

At the end of June, EIP-AGRI will launch calls for experts for new focus groups on the following topics:

- Moving carbon from source to sink in arable farming
- Circular horticulture
- Enhancing production and use of renewable energy on the farm

Keep an eye on **the EIP-AGRI website** for the announcement of the call and details on how to apply.

MIXED FARMING SYSTEMS FOCUS GROUP: FINAL REPORT

The final report of the focus group on mixed farming systems (MFS) is now **available online**. The report looks at successful case-studies of MFS at the farm and at regional level across Europe. Along with the conventional farms, the cases studies include organic and biodynamic farms from the UK, Poland, Ireland, Serbia, Slovenia and Denmark. The report underlines the main barriers and opportunities to the development of MFS and explores technical and/or organisational solutions to enable sustainable MFS. The final report also provides recommendations for further studies regarding MFS.



The final report of the focus groups on mixed farming system (MF) looks at successful case-studies of MFS at the farm and at regional level across Europe

DO YOU HAVE AN INNOVATION THAT MOVES ORGANIC FORWARD? SUBMIT IT FOR THE ORGANIC INNOVATION DAYS

Are you a farmer, researcher or a company and do you have an innovative solution for one of the needs of the organic sector below?

- Improving soil quality in organic arable farming
- Appropriate and robust livestock systems
- Innovation for sustainable diets

Apply for the 2017 TP Organics' Call for Innovations and get your solution the spotlight it deserves!

The Call for Innovations closes on 31 July 2017. The authors of the best solutions will have the opportunity to present their innovation at the third edition of the Organic Innovation Days on 15–17 November 2017 in Brussels.

You find the full description of the themes, call timeline and the template for the submission on **TP Organics' website**

Send your submission(s) in Microsoft Word format to [info \[at\] tporganics.eu](mailto:info@tporganics.eu) by 31 July 2017.

IFOAM EU COORDINATES NEW HORIZON 2020 RESEARCH PROJECT ON ORGANIC SEED AND PLANT BREEDING



1 June marked the official start of the LIVESEED project. The objective of this 4-year project is to improve the performance and sustainability of organic agriculture by boosting organic seed and plant breeding efforts, and increasing the availability of cultivars adapted to organic growing conditions.

The project will help to establish a level playing field in the organic seed market across Europe, improve the competitiveness of the organic seed and breeding sector, and encourage greater use of organic seeds by farmers. LIVESEED will improve guidelines for cultivar testing and strategies for ensuring seed health. It will develop novel breeding approaches suited for organic farming. Finally, it will investigate socio-economic aspects related to the use and production of organic seed and their interaction with relevant (EU) regulations. The LIVESEED project is coordinated by IFOAM EU, consists of 35 partners and is funded by Horizon 2020.

REMIX: IFOAM EU PARTNER IN RESEARCH PROJECT ON SPECIES MIXTURES



The Horizon 2020 project **ReMIX** started last May. It will contribute to redesigning cropping systems in Europe and encourage use of species mixtures. The combination of cereals with legumes (grain and forage) or companion species will be investigated in a trans-disciplinary approach for 4 years. The research includes on-farm trials, modelling, breeding and analyses of pest, disease and weed pressure in species mixtures. IFOAM EU is responsible for knowledge transfer and dissemination towards stakeholders and policy makers.



The participants of the Kick-Off Meeting of the Remix Project at Toulouse. Photo credits: INRA

IFOAM EU CONTRIBUTES TO INNOVATION THROUGH THE IOF2020 PROJECT: FIRST ONLINE MAGAZINE & PROJECT BROCHURE

The project **Internet of Food & Farm 2020 (IoF2020)** explores the potential of "Internet of Things" technologies for the European food and farming industry. The goal is ambitious: to make precision farming a reality and to take a vital step towards a more sustainable food value chain.

As a partner in the project, IFOAM EU has contributed to the first **newsletter** with **an article** about the benefits and challenges of Internet of Things technologies for the organic sector. To learn more about the goals of the project and **trials** that will take place in the course of the project, view the newly published **brochure** and the **website**.



The Internet of Food & Farm explores the potential of IoT-technologies for the European food and farming industry



These projects have received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 727217 (ReMIX) and 727230 (LIVESEED). This communication only reflects the author's view. The Research Executive Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.



'Internet of Food & Farm 2020' is funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme of the European Union under the Grant Agreement no. 731884

2 IFOAM EU DEVELOPMENTS

WELCOMING OUR NEW COLLEAGUES – EUROPEAN VOLUNTEERS (EVS)



Sophia Bartuschat

Sophia holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology and English Studies and is currently enrolled in a master's program on organic agriculture management at HNE Eberswalde (Germany), specializing in ecological food economics. She worked on several organic farms and volunteered in a reforestation project. Sophia is also part of a small team of volunteers who started an intercultural garden project near Berlin.

Sophia joined the Research & Innovation Unit at IFOAM EU in June and is looking forward to working towards making organic agriculture better known, and the organic sector more professionalized. Sophia is interested to learn how organic agriculture is being implemented in different countries in the EU and how the organic sector is organized.



Meriam Khadija Ghedira

Throughout her studies and professional experience, Meriam has developed a strong personal interest for the organic life style, healthy food and respect for the environment. She was born in 1991 in Tunisia where she graduated as agricultural engineer from the National Institute of Agronomy. Additionally, Meriam completed a 'masters of expertise' covering organic agricultural pillars in the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari in Italy. Currently, she's developing at the same institute her master thesis on international trade of organic products, with a proposal of an equivalence between different national organic legislations, for a better harmonization.

Meriam is pleased to join the Policy Unit at IFOAM EU, and strongly believes that it is a great opportunity to gain an in-depth understanding of EU policies.



Isabella Lang

Right after completing the master's program Organic Agricultural Systems and Agroecology at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna, Isabella moved to Brussels. During her studies in Vienna, she worked at the University's Division of Organic Farming and focussed on soil sciences and applied agroecological methods. Isabella is highly interested in the international organic movement, she attended summer schools and did internships in Panama, Mexico, Cuba, Uganda and Cordoba (Spain).

Isabella is also an active member of the Nyeleni Austria Movement for Food Sovereignty, focusing on access to land for new farmers. At IFOAM EU she would like to deepen her knowledge about project management and organizational skills, as well as European agricultural policies.



Tsvetelina Plamenova

Tsvetelina is an outgoing person who loves to travel and to share interesting experiences with people from foreign countries and cultures. She studied Geography and Regional Development at the Universities of Sofia (Bulgaria) and Lille (France). Recently, she obtained her Master degree in Innovation and Territory from the University of Grenoble, France.

Her work experience is in many different fields but the most continuous interest that she has is in food and gastronomy. Growing in the urban area and loving cooking, she developed a deep feeling for urban gardening. In this regard, she is looking forward to continuing working within the Organic agriculture sector to deepen her knowledge and inspirations.

Tsvetelina will help organising IFOAM EU's events during the coming year, and be part of the Office, Finance and Events team as an EVS.



Artur Tadeusz Sikora

Artur joined IFOAM EU directly after graduating from high school. For him working in the communications team in IFOAM EU is a unique opportunity that will give him the chance to develop his skills, which are directly related on the topics he is interested in: ecology and EU legislation.

Artur is sure that working as an EVS volunteer for IFOAM EU, at the heart of Europe, will bring his language skills to a new and professional level, will help him to create a good network, find new friends and, most of all, give him a closer look into EU policy governing the organic sector.

IS YOUR INITIATIVE LEADING EUROPE TO A MORE SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM?

Submit your initiative now!

IFOAM EU is collecting successful initiatives and projects that are working towards achieving a more sustainable food and farming system in Europe. These initiatives will contribute to the organic movement's **Vision for transforming food and farming**.

The initiatives should be projects and programmes that are not older than 4 years and that address one of the following aspects:

- creating links with actors beyond the organic sector, for example conventional farmers, chefs, health advocates, etc.
- increasing the profitability of organic farming
- improving environmental performance
- contributing to delivering healthy diets
- increasing fairness and transparency of the organic value chain

The selected initiatives will be profiled on a new website and will be promoted by IFOAM EU after the launch of the Organic Roadmap to Sustainable Food Systems in Europe at **the 11th European Organic Congress in Estonia** in September 2017.

Would you like to showcase your initiative?
Send a description of max. 200 words to **Yulia Barabanova** [a] ifoam-eu.org by July 31.



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TWO IFOAM EU STAFF MEMBERS JOINED THE ORGANIC LEADERSHIP COURSE 2017/18

Mathilde Séchet and Pauline Verrière took part in the first face-to-face meeting of the **Organic Leadership Course 2017/18**, organized by IFOAM – Organics International. The course was the opportunity to take a step back from their day-to-day work and participate in heated debates on the definition and principles of organic agriculture with people from different backgrounds and countries. They got the chance to visit Croatian organic and biodynamic farms on the islands of Vis and Hvar and to learn more about this unique environment and type of agriculture.

Mathilde and Pauline are looking forward to going deeper into the topic thanks to the upcoming webinars and meetings in February 2018. This course is a wonderful source of motivation for them to continue to make Europe more organic! Mathilde and Pauline would like to thank the organizers, Konrad Hauptfleisch and Claudia Meinicke (IFOAM – Organics International) and Jelena Petrov (Dalmatia EKO). They would also like to thank Biovega, sponsor of this first meeting, for providing for all the organic and vegan meals!



Participants to the Organic Leadership Course visit a biodynamic carob farm on Vis Island, Croatia. Photo credits: Igor Jesdimirovie

EUROPEAN VOLUNTEERS EXPERIENCE THE REALITIES OF ORGANIC FARMING AS PART OF THEIR EXPERIENCE AT IFOAM EU

Tereza Maarova and Kata Gócs, two of the EVS volunteers at IFOAM EU, were immersed into all aspects of the life of an organic farmer at Kurt Sannen's farm in Diest (Belgium) in the spring of 2017.

Tereza and Kata fed the animals, cleaned stables, assisted cows giving birth, looked after calves, and packed meat at the butcher and sold the products directly to customers. They said: "This experience was invaluable to get a more in-depth understanding of the benefits and constraints of short supply chains and of the complexity of a farmer's role within society – from providing high quality food products to helping conserve biodiversity and protect the environment. Indeed, agriculture can yield a multitude of public goods and it is up to each of us to support farmers in reaching this goal."

Farm owner Kurt is the chairman of Bioforum Vlaanderen and an active member of IFOAM EU's organic farmers interest group. At his organic farm in Diest, Kurt raises a local breed of beef cows and sheep and manages over 100 hectares of Natura 2000-designated land.

As part of the European Voluntary Services, four young people from Croatia, Estonia, Hungary and Slovakia that have been working at the IFOAM EU office for the past year had the chance to experience working on an organic Belgian farm and to learn about the practical side of agriculture. The volunteers spent between one to two weeks on various farms in Flanders and Wallonia, lending their hand to the production of organic vegetables, fruit and meat.



Tereza Maarova enjoying the farm life of an organic farmer Kurt Sannen's farm in Diest, Belgium. Photo credits: Tereza Maarova



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3 EVENTS

3.1 PREVIEW OF EVENTS

11TH EUROPEAN ORGANIC CONGRESS: TRANSFORMING FOOD & FARMING – MAKING IT HAPPEN

5–7 September 2017, Tallinn, Estonia

This year's European Organic Congress will look at how stakeholders and policymakers are working together to reach **the Organic Vision for Europe in 2030**. A roadmap will be launched, showing the way forward to making the transformation of food & farming a reality. First, we will discover different initiatives that are already being pioneered throughout Europe to transform food and farming. Then, there will be a debate on how public policies can help to stimulate such initiatives – from the Common Agricultural Policy to the development of food policies at national and regional level.

Take part in designing our organic future and engage with organic leaders and policymakers from all around Europe:

- Tarmo Tamm – Minister of Rural Affairs of the Republic of Estonia
- Martin Häusling, Member of the European Parliament Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance and Rapporteur for the Legislative Proposal for the New Organic

- Emile Frison – Member of International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems
- Jeremy Wates, Secretary General of the European Environmental Bureau

Consult the full programme and **the excursion programme** on the European Organic Congress website.

Make sure to register and help us to shape the future of organic in Europe!

5TH ORGANIC PROCESSING CONFERENCE

16–17 January 2018, Zwolle, The Netherlands

The 5th Organic Processing Conference will take place in Zwolle, the Netherlands on 16–17 January 2018. Organic processors from all over Europe will get an opportunity to discuss market trends & new concepts in the organic sector. They will discuss the pros and cons of robotics and digitalization, as well as transparency and integrity of the supply chain. Save the date!

NATEXPO

22–24 October 2017, Paris-Nord, Villepinte, France

In October, organic trade professionals will gather in Villepinte, Paris Nord, for **Natexpo**, France's biggest trade show for organic, health food and ecological products.. A strictly trade-only show, Natexpo reveals the newest organic trends emerging in a buoyant market and new products from buyers in all categories.

With 20% internationals among 720 exhibitors, an increase of 35% in surface area compared to 2015, and 14% of non-French visitors from 76 different countries, 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.

22-23-24 OCT. 2017
natexpo
Accelerating
Organic Trends



Transforming food & farming

› Organic on every table › Inspire-Improve-Deliver › Fair play – Fair pay

Registration and programme – organic-congress-ifoameu.org

Organised by:



Supported by:



Action co-financed by the European Commission, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development.

Action co-financed by the European Commission, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development. This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

3.2 REVIEW OF EVENTS

SUSTAINABLE FOODS SUMMIT: NEW HORIZONS FOR ECO-LABELS AND SUSTAINABILITY

1–2 June 2017, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Eduardo Cuoco, IFOAM EU Director, moderated the session 'The true cost of food products' at **the Sustainable Foods Summit**. At the session, participants learned why the prices we pay for food products are not representative of production and consumption costs. During the session, the environmental, social and economic costs of food products were discussed and comparisons made between conventional and sustainable products were made. The most important question that arose during the session was: How are truer prices possible?

The aim of the Sustainable Foods Summit is to explore new horizons for eco-labels and sustainability in the food industry. This international series of summits is hosted in North America, Latin America, Europe and the Asia-Pacific regions.



Director of IFOAM EU Eduardo Cuoco moderating the session of 'The true cost of food products'. Photo credits: Sustainable Foods Summit

SME ORGANICS: STAKEHOLDERS AND POLICYMAKERS LEARN ABOUT ORGANIC ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT IN FINLAND

6–7 June 2017, Seinäjoki, Finland

In June, IFOAM EU, other project partners and regional stakeholders of the **SME ORGANICS project** travelled to the region of South Ostrobothnia in West Finland for the fifth interregional Field Visit. The visit was hosted by Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences (SeAMK).

On day 1 participants learned about the state of development of the organic sector in Finland. They were introduced to the relevance of regional action plan development for the organic sector and policymakers by the Finnish Organic Association and the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Best practice examples from Finland were presented, as a source of inspiration for regional action plan elaboration, looking at short supply chain development and Finland's export and trade in organic products. Participants also visited practical examples including catering services at a district hospital sourcing some organic products and as well as farms producing and processing beef and spelt products. On day 2 participants focused on the development and elaboration of their own regional action plans in plenary discussions and break-out groups facilitated by Stephen Meredith, IFOAM EU Deputy Policy Manager and Nic Lampkin, Executive Director of the Organic Research Centre. As part of these discussions participants

exchanged on the setting of aims, objections and actions in the forthcoming plans based on each partners' diagnosis of the organic and agri-food sector in their region. This discussion was complemented with presentations from the partners in South Ostrobothnia and the French region of Nouvelle Aquitaine outlining in their progress so far on elaborating their plans.

The next field visit will take place in Nouvelle Aquitaine, France in September 2017. **Visit the SME ORGANICS website** for more information about the project.



Johanna Rotola-Pukkila from Riverhill's Highland Organic Farm, Kauhajoki, speaks with participants attending the SME ORGANICS' field visit in South Ostrobothnia (Finland). Photo credits: Elina Puska

SME ORGANICS seeks to improve policies and programmes under the EU's Investment for Growth and Jobs goal to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of the SMEs in the organic sector of the participating regions. The project aims both at enhancing entrepreneurship but also at supporting existing SMEs in improving their performance.

SME ORGANICS
Interreg Europe



IFOAM EU PRESENT AT EIP-AGRI WORKSHOP 'ORGANIC IS OPERATIONAL'

14–15 June 2017, Hamburg, Germany

EIP-AGRI and IFOAM EU closely cooperated to organise the **EIP-AGRI workshop 'Organic is Operational'** that took place in Hamburg. During this two-day workshop, **Operational Groups dealing with organic agriculture** exchanged knowledge and networked among each other and with other relevant innovation projects, including the **OK-Net Arable knowledge platform**. The workshop helped participants to identify common challenges groups and to explore innovative solutions to their specific questions.

The workshop included four field visits, each of them connected to an Operational Group nearby Hamburg, dealing with fruit production, innovative livestock housing systems, use of catch crops and animal manure compost.

Presentations and an overview of participating projects will be uploaded on the **EIP-AGRI website**. A report with conclusions will be made available too.



Bram Moeskops, Research & Innovation Manager at IFOAM EU presenting the OK-Net Arable platform at the EIP-AGRI workshop

AGRISPIN SEMINAR "INNOVATION SUPPORT SERVICE FOR ORGANIC: HOW TO IMPROVE?"

15 June 2017, Hamburg, Germany

IFOAM EU organized a seminar for organic stakeholders to share insights and recommendations of the **AgriSpin project** and discuss how innovation can be better supported in the organic sector. The participants learned about specific examples of innovation support for small farms in Belgium provided by the **Innovatiesteunpunt** and approaches to sustain farmers' innovation through participatory and practical research provided by **Bioland**, together with a network of organic farming associations in Germany.

Participants to the seminar had an opportunity to reflect on the role of organic advisors and the tools they need to foster innovation in the sector. The discussions focused on the needs of new entrants to organic farmers as well as those of experienced farmers in terms of socio-economic, technical and support for on-farm experiments. The participants concluded that in addition to the technical knowledge, organic advisors have new roles and thus need new skills and on the job training to support innovative farms. These include strong interpersonal (coaching) skills to facilitate networking and exchange between farmers, connect them with new actors, and keep farmers motivated to search for solutions.



AgriSpin is a multi-actor project that received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 652642



Organic stakeholders share insights and recommendations of the AgriSpin project



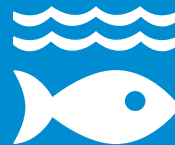
Naturland

Organic. Social. Fair trade.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



2 ZERO HUNGER



WILDFISH

15 LIFE ON LAND



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Experts everywhere see organic and socially oriented agriculture as the key to combating global environmental problems, hunger and poverty. In keeping with Agenda 2030, we see sustainability as a combination of all its ecological, social and economic aspects, which Naturland merges to create a living, breathing, continually developing whole.

TERRASANA IS ALL ABOUT POSITIVE EATING

TERRASANA

Positive eating: what does this mean?

Positive eating reflects the positive feeling people get when they find organic food that includes at least five things:

- ✓ It is truly tasty food, with a great taste. Food you can really enjoy, alone, with your family and with your friends. You see, feel and taste the goodness.
- ✓ It doesn't contain any unnecessary ingredients like flavourings and artificial additives.
- ✓ Responsible choices -for body as well as environment- are made. For example when it comes to sugars and fats we use extra virgin olive oil instead of palm oil and blackstrap molasses instead of refined sugars, when possible.
- ✓ We communicate with understandable straightforward, clear and fair information and ingredient declaration.
- ✓ It has the potential to help provide a positive development because it's organic, sustainable and fair. It helps farmers, doesn't pollute the earth, soil and water & is made with green energy.

Wide product range

TerraSana offers more than 500 products in nine categories. They contain the best ingredients from all over the world. All are organic, fair and delicious. These three elements will always point back to TerraSana's vision: positive eating for everyone!

Modern appearance

For the past two years, TerraSana has been updating the full range of products. Most recently, we introduced a completely updated Mediterranean line with 50 delicious specialties. The new packaging is modern, friendly and inviting. Enjoyment is the main message, as this is what makes Mediterranean food so broadly appealing. Every product has their own special story. With the new design, also quality improvements were made, like crackers with olive oil instead of palm oil. At the same time, unique Spanish soups were introduced, made from vegetables, olive oil, wine vinegar and salt only. Also, beautifully handcrafted premium pasta's, including 7 gluten free varieties -made of i.e. 100% oats or 100% chickpeas- were presented.

Trendy Japanese cuisine

TerraSana offers more than 90 truly authentic Japanese products in a trendy look. TerraSana has been an expert in the careful selection of Japanese products for years. With knowledge of macrobiotics, years of importing experience and close monitoring of current trends, a wonderful organic Japanese product line with a modern twist has been developed. It focuses on all the good things Japanese cuisine has to offer: mostly low in fat and calories, small portions and lots of fresh and fermented products.

Europeans are already used to so many different types of cooking, why should we leave this special cuisine undiscovered?

✓ bio-organic

Organic nut butters, produced in our own building.

TerraSana offers a complete range of 16 kinds of nutbutters and seedpastes. They are produced CO2 neutrally. TerraSana's core value is not only to be responsible with food products, but also the whole process behind it - from production to transport. Working in a sustainable manner, with solar energy and green options where we can, is very important in our organisation and gives us a smile on our face every day. That is why we have solar panels on our rooftop that provide the energy that is needed for the production of our nut butters. Of course, we recycle our waste and all transport is CO2 compensated.

TerraSana is the accessible no-nonsense brand on the shelves of organic food stores. Our products make you taste and feel the goodness!

Want to know more about TerraSana, its products and the production?

Visit terrasana.com or follow TerraSana on social media.



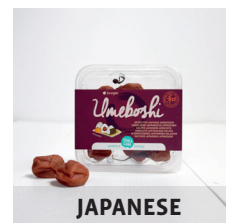
NUT BUTTERS



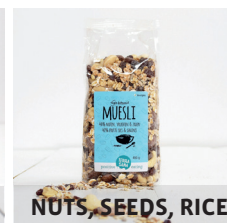
MEDITERRANEAN



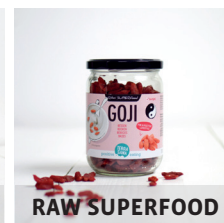
BREAD



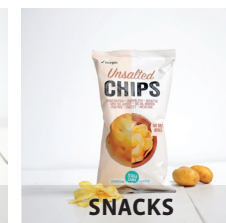
JAPANESE



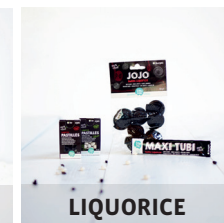
NUTS, SEEDS, RICE



RAW SUPERFOOD



SNACKS



LIQUORICE



MAPLE SYRUP

4 MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC – SUPPORT IFOAM EU

IFOAM EU KEY SUPPORTERS 2017

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.



wessanen

SUPPORT THE 'KEEPING GMOS OUT OF FOOD' PROJECT

The '**Keeping GMOs out of food**' project is a three-year project (2014–2017) aimed at protecting the food chain against GMO contamination. The project aims to develop practical materials for the organic and GM-free sector and lead advocacy work through:

- Analysis of the current legal framework
- Assessment of the socio-economic impact of the cultivation and & of GMOs in the EU
- Lobby meetings and a high level conference
- Practical strategies developed with a Roundtable
- Discussion in focussed sector, national and European workshops
- Publication of practical guidelines to avoid GMO contamination in the food chain

IFOAM EU previously released **Preventing GMO contamination – An overview of national “coexistence” measures in the EU** in the frame of the 'Keeping GMOs out of food' project.

For further information, contact [pauline.verriere \[at\] ifoam-eu.org](mailto:pauline.verriere@ifoam-eu.org)

HELP US TO MAKE EUROPE MORE ORGANIC

Write to communication [at] ifoam-eu.org or call +32 (0)2 808 79 91 to find out which sponsorship opportunities are available and suit your organisation

5 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- › 3 July 2017 **AgriSpin project end conference: Space for Innovation in Agriculture**
Crete, Greece
- › 6–7 July 2017 **IFOAM EU “Keeping GMOs out of food” project Roundtable**
Echzell, Germany
- › 5–7 September 2017 **11th European Organic Congress**
Tallinn, Estonia
- › 28 September 2017 **European Commission conference on Modern Biotechnologies in agriculture**
Brussels, Belgium
- › 22–24 October 2017 **Natexpo**
Paris, France
- › 9–11 November 2017 **19th Organic World Congress**
New Delhi, India
- › 15–16 November 2017 **Nordic Organic Food Fair 2017**
Malmö, Sweden
- › 15–17 November 2017 **Organic Innovation Days & Horizon 2020 Brokerage Event**
Brussels, Belgium
- › 16–17 January 2018 **5th Organic Processing Conference**
Zwolle, The Netherlands
- › 17–18 January 2018 **Bio-Beurs**
Zwolle, the Netherlands
- › 14–17 February 2018 **BIOFACH 2018**
Nuremberg, Germany



IFOAM EU staff visiting **Bio de Zwaluw** organic dairy farm at Lovendegem, Belgium. Photo credits: Triin Viilvere

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