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IFOAM EU
NEWSLETTER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3 WELCOME NOTE
- 5 POLITICAL HOTSPOT
- 6 1 NEWS FROM IFOAM EU WORKING FIELDS
- 6 1.1 Regulation
- 7 1.2 Policy
- 14 1.3 EU Research & Innovation Policy / TP Organics
- 16 2 IFOAM EU DEVELOPMENTS
- 18 3 EVENTS
- 18 3.1 Preview of events
- 21 3.2 Review of events
- 23 4 MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC
– SUPPORT IFOAM EU
- 24 5 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Lively panel discussion 'Organic Regulation: Envisaging the Way Forward' at the 11th European Organic Congress;
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WELCOME NOTE

This September marked the two-year anniversary of the adoption of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which underpin the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. September also saw EU policymakers and food and farming stakeholders from across the organic sector and beyond gather together in Tallinn, Estonia for the 11th European Organic Congress. Focusing on the theme of, Transforming Food & Farming – Making it Happen, this year's Congress had a twin track approach: on the one hand exploring the vast range of practical examples already being undertaken by policymakers and food and farming actors to reach the Organic 2030 Vision and on the other hand carefully considering the relevance of the EU policy framework for reaching our shared aspirations.

The event kicked-off with the launch of the organic movement's new Organic Roadmap to Sustainable Food and Farming Systems in Europe. The Roadmap sets out key strategic pathways for supporting an ambitious implementation of the SDGs as part of the organic movement's Organic 2030 Vision for Transforming Food and Farming. More importantly, practical solutions for reaching our Vision were on hand as participants showcased examples of how food and farming stakeholders are already giving life to our Roadmap, from producer and consumer coops working to have organic on every table, to the development of an organic cities network that improve, inspire, deliver

to regional marketing programmes that ensure fair play – fair pay. These initiatives demonstrate the dynamism and creativity of alternative food and farming actors, committed to transforming food and farming in Europe, and represent a rich tapestry of how we are making it happen – so beautifully captured in illustrations produced by Hazel Hurley during the conference proceedings and so eloquently expressed by Kristin Karlsson of CONCORD Sweden in our final overview. For further information, I strongly invite you to visit IFOAM EU's new website EUorganic2030.bio.

While the SDGs are universally relevant to all countries and provide a clear pathway towards a more sustainable Europe, they must be adapted to the European context if we are to ensure truly sustainable food and farming systems. This was a clear theme running throughout the Congress proceedings in debates on the current EU policy framework for food and farming. The opening panel on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy brought together key EU policymakers from the Estonian EU Presidency and the European Commission and stakeholders from the environmental and farming communities (both organic and conventional). While the debate on the next CAP reform is still only heating up, what is clear is that a trade-off between the need for farmers to have viable livelihoods and at the same time deliver on societal outcomes must be solved. Here the organic model, combining a market-led approach

for delivering high quality food and contributing to environmental protection and animal protection, as part of a whole farm system approach, presents a viable pathway for an ambitious implementation of the SDGs that directly addresses the current stalemate. Indeed, we were delighted to be able to bring together around the same table for this important debate - the Directors-General of both COPA-COGEA and the European Environment Bureau, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, as well as key political representatives from Estonia and Sweden – two countries with the highest share of land under organic production.

The current state of play in the review of the organic regulation is still largely on many of our minds, as the organic movement continues to work tirelessly to ensure that we have an EU legislative framework that supports the long-term sustainable development of the sector. Again, it was critical that we were able to welcome key representatives from all EU Institutions, directly involved in the trilogue negotiations, to speak with the organic movement. However, we were also reminded that debates around the EU organic regulation need to take on board the bigger picture of the organic ideas and principles in an address by Prof. Nic Lampkin of the Organic Research Centre, UK. This, along with warm words of welcome from Estonian Minister of Rural Affairs Tarmo Tamm; exposure to new

innovative business models which form the blue economy by entrepreneur Gunter Pauli; reflections on the growing consensus of true cost accounting by Gunnar Rundgren of Grolink; and a lively discussion on the role of the organic movement in transforming the food systems from farm to fork, together with Emile Frison of International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems and other experts, also gave us plenty of food for thought as we work towards making Europe More Organic.

I would like to end by thanking all the staff at IFOAM EU and the Estonian Organic Farming Foundation, and the Estonian EU Presidency and the Ministry of Rural Affairs involved in the organisation of another successful Congress, to our supporters and media partners and finally to all the participants - without who we would be unable to have such rich and value discussions - as part of our joint efforts to transform food and farming and make it happen.



Sincerely
Christopher Stopes
IFOAM EU President

TRANSFORMING FOOD & FARMING - MAKING IT HAPPEN

AN ORGANIC ROADMAP TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND FARMING SYSTEMS IN EUROPE

VISION 2030

- ORGANIC ON EVERY TABLE**
- IMPROVE INSPIRE DELIVER**
- FAIR PLAY FAIR PAY**

Design elements: Ecoprint Ltd / www.ecoprint.ee

Read what the media had to say about the 11th European Organic Congress

POLITICAL HOTSPOT

European Commission high-level conference on New Genetic Engineering Techniques: the organic sector calls for the regulation of new GMOs

The European Commission organized on 28 September 2017 a High-Level Conference on Modern Biotechnologies, to “start the discussion on the issue with all stakeholders”. While the Commission has repeatedly delayed the adoption of a legal interpretation on the legal status of new genetic engineering techniques, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) is expected to publish in 2018 a decision on the matter, linked to a legal case in France. A hearing is also organised by the ECJ one week after the conference, on 3 October 2017.

This conference was the opportunity for the organic movement to reiterate its position on new genetic engineering techniques. Jan Plagge, IFOAM EU Vice President for Policy, stated that for the organic movement all new genetic engineering techniques currently discussed should be considered as a technique of genetic modification leading to GMOs according to the existing EU legal definition. Hence these new techniques should fall within the scope of the existing GMO legislation. Jan Plagge insisted that no new GMO should be marketed without labelling and the availability of detection methods. Traceability and labelling are indeed indispensable to allow the

organic and conventional sectors to remain GMO-free, and to guarantee consumers’ freedom of choice. Jan Plagge also underlined the necessity for innovation in agriculture, and that organic agriculture offers alternative innovation pathways.

The conference was concluded by Mrs Roth-Behrendt, the special advisor of Commissioner Andriukaitis (DG SANTE), who stressed the necessity to ensure a high level of food safety, and that transparency in the decision-making process needs to be improved to restore the trust of European citizens. If the Commission said that further discussion is necessary to agree on how pursue this objective, they also indicated that they will wait for the ECJ’s decision.

In related news, the Dutch government presented to other Member States on 7 September its own view on the topic. The Netherlands indeed propose to modify Directive 2001/18 (Annex I.B.) to explicitly exclude most new genetic engineering techniques from the scope of the GMO legislation. This is the opposite of IFOAM EU’s position, as the organic movement believes that there are no technical or legal reasons to exempt these new techniques from regulation, and that they should be submitted to prior authorization, risk assessment, traceability and labelling. The Dutch proposal seem to have received mixed responses from other Member States.

It seems clear that for now everybody awaits the decision of the ECJ and that there will be no official initiative on the matter until then. But lines are already being drawn and proponents of the use of new genetic engineering techniques are already pushing for a weakening of the EU legislation on GMOs so as to make way for the marketing of these new products. The organic and conventional GMO-free sectors would bear the cost of such a deregulation, and should ask national governments to take a firm stance to defend the precautionary principle and the application the existing legal framework to these new GMOs.



Jan Plagge, Board Vice President of IFOAM EU, presenting the position of the organic sector; © Annegret Grafen, Bioland

1 NEWS FROM IFOAM EU WORKING FIELDS

1.1 REGULATION

EGTOP MEMBERSHIP RENEWED

The membership of the Expert Group for Technical Advice on Organic Production (EGTOP) has been renewed. The names of the new permanent members and of the new 'members of the pool of candidates' **have been published** on 30 August 2017.

The EGTOP assists the EU Commission in:

- Evaluating products, substances and techniques which can be used in organic production, taking into account the objectives and principles laid down in Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007
- Improving existing rules and developing new production rules
- Bringing about an exchange of experience and good practices in the field of organic production

UPDATED LIST OF RECOGNISED CONTROL BODIES

During the summer, the Commission published **a Regulation updating the list of recognised 'equivalent' control bodies operating in Third Countries.**



Image shown is for illustration purpose only; © Triin Viilvere

IFOAM EU TASK FORCE ON COSMETICS MEETS

On 19 September, the IFOAM EU task force on cosmetics met in Brussels to discuss the future of organic cosmetics in Europe. Participants discussed possible ways to establish a level playing field with organic food, so that risk of green washing (unsubstantiated organic claims) is minimised and consumer expectations are met.

The role of the task force is twofold:

- Assessing the status of the existing organic labels for cosmetics in the EU market
- Evaluating the need for protection of the term 'organic' in relation to cosmetics based on the use of organic raw material, processing, manufacture and retail (whole supply chain)

The IFOAM EU task force gathers the major players of the organic cosmetics market and is coordinated by IFOAM EU.

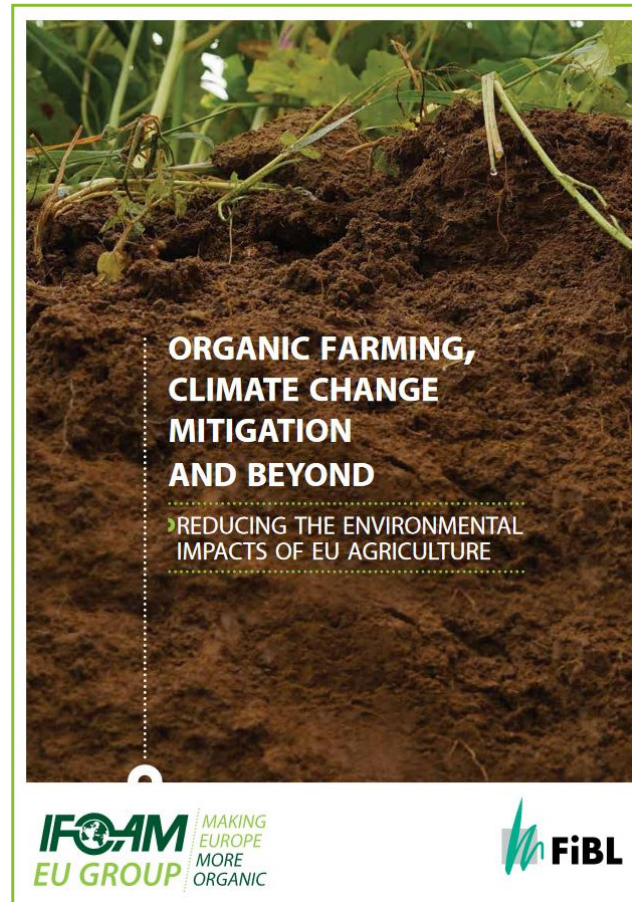
1.2 POLICY

› CLIMATE CHANGE

IFOAM EU'S CLIMATE CHANGE RESOURCES NOW AVAILABLE IN SPANISH

Thanks to the efforts of **Ecovalia**, our video **Transforming agriculture to combat climate change** is available in Spanish: watch the video **Agricultura ecológica, la gran herramienta contra el cambio climático** now.

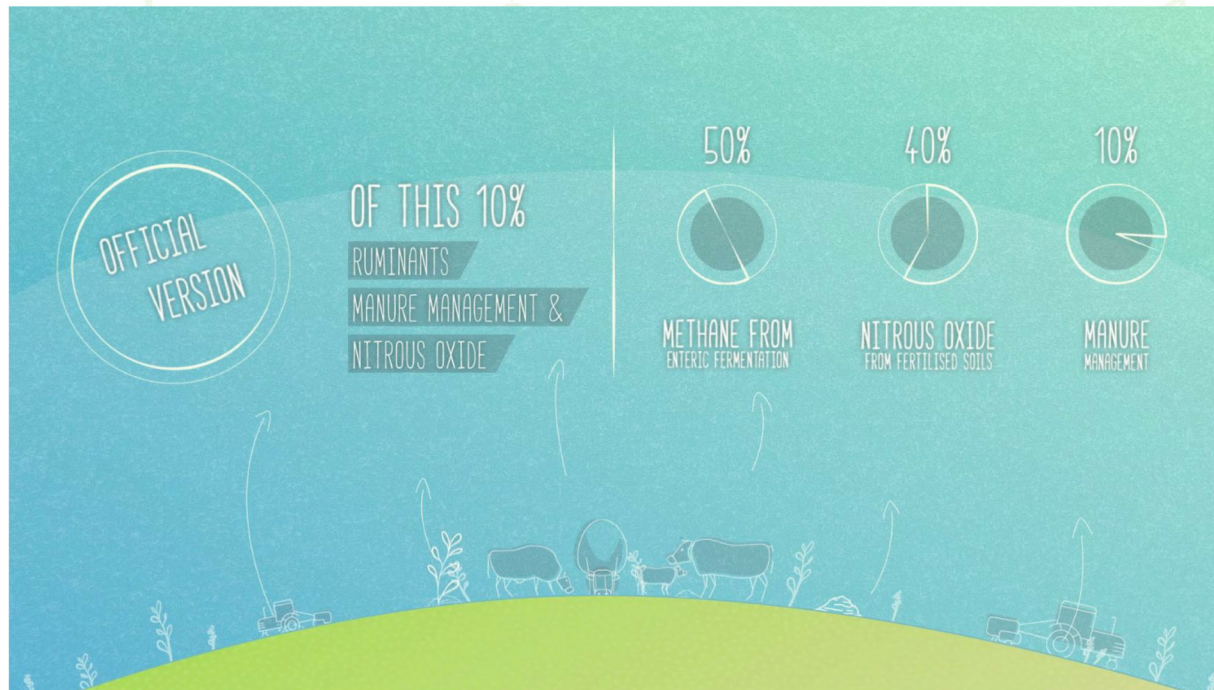
The Climate Change report was produced by **IFOAM EU** and **FiBL**. It highlights organic agriculture's potential to mitigate and adapt to climate change and it underlines the importance of adopting a systemic approach to reducing all the environmental impacts of agriculture.



Organic farming plays a vital part in reducing emissions from agriculture. Find out more in IFOAM EU and FiBL's report

Transforming agriculture to combat climate change

WATCH OUR VIDEO



Learn about organic farming's contributions to the fight against climate change on ifoam-eu.org

› CAP

NEXT COMMON AGRICULTURE POLICY MUST PRIORITISE INVESTMENTS IN SUSTAINABLE FARMING, NOT HARMFUL RISK MANAGEMENT TOOLS SAYS IFOAM EU

IFOAM EU has called on policymakers to ensure that key reforms under the next CAP are orientated towards investments in sustainable farming, based on the range of environmental and socio-economic outcomes that farms deliver, rather than towards harmful risk management tools. The call followed discussions by Agricultural Ministers at the Estonian Presidency's Informal Meeting of the AGRIFISH Council in Tallinn between 3–5 September 2017 where one of the main items on the agenda was **effective tools for farmers to manage risks**.

A range of risk management tools such as an income stabilisation tool and mutual funds currently exist for EU Member States under their national and regional rural development programmes. While uptake of such tools has remained rather limited to date, price volatility in some agri-food sectors in recent years, as well as discussions on addressing the effects of climate change, have pushed the issue up the political agenda. Speaking at the Informal AGRIFISH Council, Agriculture Commissioner Phil Hogan stressed that risk management tools should remain voluntary for Member States to apply. Amongst agri-food stakeholders, there remains a strong openness for such tools to become a more mainstream instrument under the next CAP.

However, this approach is not shared by the organic movement. Speaking at the **European Organic Congress**, also held in Tallinn between 5–7 September, IFOAM EU Vice-President Jan Plagge contended that risk management tools such as insurance schemes would just encourage overproduction and undermine farm viability and our environment. He pointed to the fact that the results of the **Commission's recent public consultation** clearly highlight that a CAP fit for the modern age must ensure that fair farm incomes and the delivery of public goods demanded by society are not in conflict. Pointing to **the IFOAM EU's Vision for the next CAP**, he concluded that prioritising public goods for public benefit, backed by a well-resourced EU budget, has the greatest chance of achieving an ambitious implementation of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals by contributing to fair farm incomes that deliver on societal expectations.

The Commission has reaffirmed its plans to publish a Communication outlining the possible direction of the next CAP by the end of 2017. Any legislative proposal on CAP could be tabled in the last quarter of 2018, following legislative proposals for the next EU budget Post-2020 foreseen for mid-2018.

For further information about the latest developments on the CAP reform Post-2020 please contact **stephen.meredith [at] ifoam-eu.org**

› GMOs

MERGER OF MONSANTO AND BAYER: THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION LAUNCHES AN INVESTIGATION

After giving the green light for two agribusiness mega-mergers (Dow and Dupont, Syngenta and ChemChina) in June 2017, the European Commission seems to be more reluctant regarding a third merger between Monsanto and Bayer. Indeed, in August, the **European institution launched an investigation** to assess this acquisition. The European Commission has until 8 January 2018 to take a decision.

Taking place in a sector "already concentrated", the European Commission worries that this transaction "would create the world's largest integrated pesticides and seeds company" and "could reduce competition in a number of different markets resulting in higher prices, lower quality, less choice and less innovation". IFOAM EU shares this concern but the European Commission should acknowledge that they also exist for the other mergers in the agrifood sector.



Friends of the Earth symbolizing merger of the agriculture and chemical companies Bayer and Monsanto; © Friends of the Earth Europe, Lode Saidane

MODIFICATION OF THE PROCESS TO AUTHORIZE GMOS AND PESTICIDES IN THE EU

The decision-making process – called comitology – can be particularly difficult and long when it comes to controversial products like GMOs and pesticides. Often, Member States fail to reach a qualified majority to accept or refuse these products' authorizations, and the final decision ends up in the hands of the European Commission, which almost systematically gives the green light.

To change this situation and to ensure that Member States "take their responsibilities", the European Commission **decided in February 2017 to propose a modification of the comitology procedure**. The Commission's main suggested change is to modify the calculation of the qualified majority by not considering abstentions.

In July 2017, the Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development proposed a **draft opinion** for the Committee on Legal Affairs, which is responsible for the text. These amendments are a real improvement of the European Commission's proposal. The Committee proposes more transparency during the entire process by revealing the name of the Member State's representative, their final vote and its justification. It suggests dropping the proposition of authorization in case no qualified majority is reached in favour, as well as abandoning the European Commission's proposition not to take into account abstention. The amendments proposed by the Committee on Agriculture are in line with the **demands of IFOAM EU and other NGOs**.

FOOD, FARMING AND ENVIRONMENT

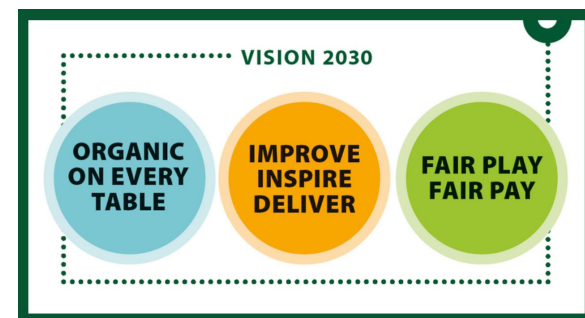
IFOAM EU'S ORGANIC ROADMAP SETS OUT PATHWAYS FOR AMBITIOUS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

A new **organic roadmap to sustainable food and farming systems in Europe** has been published by IFOAM EU. It sets out key strategic pathways for supporting an ambitious implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). **The Roadmap**, launched at the **European Organic Congress** in Tallinn on 5 September 2017, is part of the **organic movement's Organic 2030 Vision 2030 for Transforming Food and Farming**. The launch of the Roadmap at the Congress also gave stakeholders from across the European organic movement and beyond the opportunity to **showcase examples of initiatives** in their countries and regions that are already contributing to the spirit of the roadmap and can act as a source of inspiration for further development. Many these examples will form part of **euorganic2030.bio** – a new website developed by IFOAM EU to promote the roadmap and the different initiatives taking place across Europe.

Speaking at the launch of the roadmap, Christopher Stopes, IFOAM EU President, stated that the organic model provides a proven path to achieving the SDGs and to capitalise on the potential of organics, the EU and national governments need to fully integrate the goals into all the EU's policies, including the CAP. Earlier this year, IFOAM EU together with a broad range of over 250 civil society organisations in the frame of **SDG Watch Europe**, put forward **Scenario 6:**

Sustainable Europe for its Citizens as an alternative to the scenarios proposed as part of the EU debate on the **Future for Europe**. Scenario 6 sets out why and how the EU can become a driver for sustainability in Europe and beyond, with a special focus on delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals and full implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement.

The organic roadmap comes almost two years after the adoption of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015. In July 2017, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on **EU action for sustainability** where MEPs called for more efforts to be made to support organic and biodynamic agriculture within the scope of the CAP to promote an agroecological transition. The European Commission sees the development of the organic farmland area as key indicator for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs. Together with other civil society organisation IFOAM EU has stressed that more needs to be done to ensure that the EU and national governments have a truly ambitious implementation of all SDGs adapted to the needs of EU citizens to **#MakeEuropeSustainableForAll**.



Transforming Food and Farming – Making it Happen; Designed elements: Ecoprint Ltd / www.ecoprint.e

EUROPEAN COMMISSION LAUNCH REFIT EVALUATION OF EU PESTICIDE LEGISLATION

The European Commission has launched a **REFIT Evaluation** concerning key parts of the EU's pesticide legislation. The legislation to be evaluated includes **(EC) No 1107/2009** which set rules for approval of active substances and authorisation of all Plant Protection Products (PPPs) and **(EC) No 396/2005** concerning the Maximum Residue Limits (MRS) of pesticides on food and feed. The objective of the REFIT evaluation is to perform an evidence-based evaluation of the implementation of the PPP and MRS regulations and address synergies, gaps, inefficiencies and burdens considering that the regulation for PPPs has been in force since 2011 and the one for MRLs since 2008. The REFIT evaluation is part of the Commission's Better Regulation agenda looking at the specific evaluation criteria in terms of the EU legislation's effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance and EU added value.

One of key issues for the organic movement is the need to find more suitable registration criteria for naturally occurring substances as they are currently treated in the same way as synthetic pesticides. IFOAM EU will actively participate in the REFIT consultations which begin in the Autumn of 2017. The REFIT is planned to be completed by November 2018 and the Commission will use the results to draft the report to the European Parliament and the Council.

Consult IFOAM EU's position paper **Plant health care in organic farming** to get informed about key issues on plant health. For further information about the REFIT process please contact [stephen.meredith \[at\] ifoam-eu.org](mailto:stephen.meredith@ifoam-eu.org)

LIVSEED PROJECT: RESULTS OF THE POLICY MEETINGS IN THE BALTIC COUNTRIES

A representation of IFOAM EU has just completed a first trip to the Baltic states, as part of its mission to better understand the different policy contexts and bottlenecks regarding organic seed use in Europe. The meetings were organised by IFOAM EU member Bionext, in cooperation with AREI from Latvia – the Institute for Agricultural Resources and Economics. Participants to the meetings had the chance to discuss with the relevant authorities and stakeholders, i.e. organic farmers associations, seed associations, etc.

One of the main observations of the trip was that organic farmers tend to use farm-saved seeds because the quantity and quality of available organic seeds is low. Therefore, the focus in the coming years will be on finding solutions to improve seed quality and give the chance to organic farmers to use suitable organic seeds for their production.

Liveseed is a research project aimed at promoting the use of organic seeds and the development of the organic breeding sector. The project is coordinated by IFOAM EU and has kicked off in June. Visit www.liveseed.eu for more information.



Visiting an organic seed producer in Latvia; © Effimia Chatzinikolaou



This project received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement 727230. 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

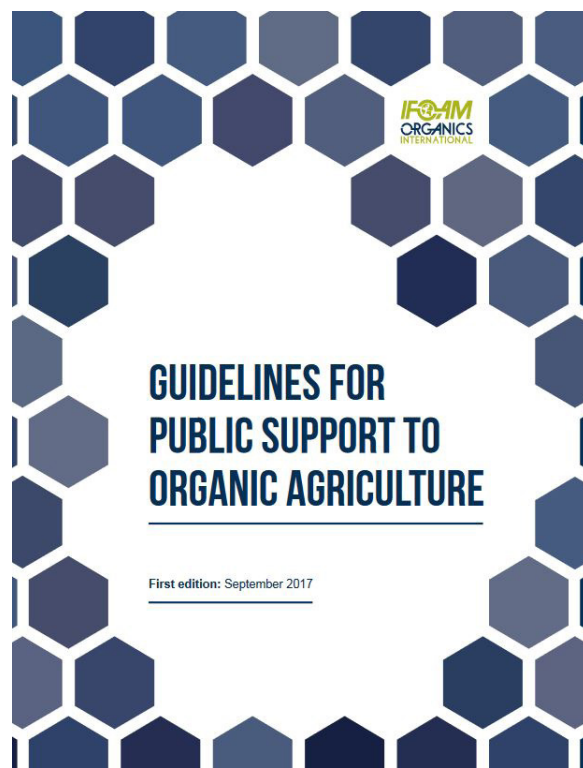
NEW GLOBAL POLICY TOOLKIT ON PUBLIC SUPPORT TO ORGANIC FARMING LAUNCHED

IFOAM – Organics International has launched a **policy toolkit highlighting different ways in which organic farming is being supported globally at different levels** (municipal, regional and national). The toolkit brings together examples of public support targeted at organic farming in over 80 countries, collected over a two period, from various sources including policy makers, academia, consultants, and organic stakeholders.

The **Global Policy Toolkit on Public Support to Organic Agriculture** includes:

- **The main study report**, which presents a comprehensive overview of measures that can be taken by governments at various levels (municipal, regional, national) to promote and support organic agriculture, with examples and advice related to each type of support.
- **Policy summaries** are policy briefs on various topics, which can be taken to meetings with policy makers.
- **Power point presentations** that help break down the main arguments and successful examples from countries that have effectively implemented policy support measures.

The toolkit also includes a policy template, tips for organic advocates, and a decision aid to help users select the most appropriate support measures. For more information, please contact IFOAM – Organics International’s Policy & Guarantee Manager, Joelle Katto-Andrighetto, [j.katto \[at\] ifoam.bio](mailto:j.katto@ifoam.bio)



Consult IFOAM – Organic International’s new toolkit to get a complete global overview of policies supporting organic agriculture

UPDATE ON GLYPHOSATE DISCUSSION AND THE UPCOMING VOTE BY THE EU MEMBER STATES

Since 2012, the renewal of the authorization of glyphosate is at stake in the European Union. Member States failed many times to reach an agreement about the active substance used in many herbicides – most infamously Monsanto’s Roundup – and for which lots of GMOs are engineered to be tolerant to.

Member States will vote on the authorization of glyphosate on 4 October, as the last authorization, which was granted for 18 months, will expire on 15 December 2017.

In August, the French government made its intention to vote against the renewal authorization public. Other Member States and the European Commission must also take the voice of European citizens into account.

Glyphosate is the most used herbicide globally, and residues are regularly found in **food** or the **human body**. In 2015, the WHO’s International Agency for the Research on Cancer (IARC) classified it as a “probable carcinogen”. In October 2015, the **EFSA published its own conclusion** stating that “glyphosate is unlikely to pose a carcinogenic hazard to humans”. **The EFSA’s report is now accused to largely copying** a document produced by the Glyphosate task force, a consortium of 20 companies led by Monsanto. Meanwhile, the citizen opposition is also growing: the **European Citizen Initiative** to “stop glyphosate” reached more than 1.3 million signatures.

PEOPLE4SOIL: OVER 200,000 EU CITIZENS WANT THE EU TO MAKE CONCRETE EFFORTS TO SAFEGUARD OUR SOILS

Over 200,000 EU citizens called on the European Commission to put soil protection back on the EU political agenda by setting out a **roadmap for an EU Soil Framework Directive**. **People4Soil** emerged following the formal abandonment by the Commission of an EU Soil Directive in 2014 as a result of continuous pressure from a number of Member States who have been opposing the introduction of such a Directive for some years.

Put forward as a European Citizens' Initiative (ECI), the campaign demanded Europe to urgently respond to the challenge of *soil degradation* by recognising

soil as a common good. This could be achieved by resurrecting the original Soil Directive and adopting specific legislation on soil protection, fixing principles and rules to be complied by the Member States.

People4Soil was supported by more than 550 local organizations and groups from 26 Member States, including IFOAM EU. Even though the campaign did not reach the required 1 million people within 12 months to be recognised as an ECI, the signatures will be submitted to Commission Vice-President Frans Timmermans. The significant number of EU citizens who signed on to this campaign shows that many remain unconvinced that existing EU policies are sufficient to ensure an adequate level of protection for all soils in Europe and underline the need for urgent action.

IFOAM EU will continue to engage with People4Soil for a binding legal framework to protect our soils. For further information see **IFOAM EU's position on a future EU Soil Directive**.

A campaign poster featuring a close-up of a young boy's face on the right side, looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is a dark, cracked, and dry surface, likely representing degraded soil. On the left, there is a green hand icon with the text "PEOPLE 4SOIL" inside it. The main text in the center reads: "OUR FUTURE IS IN DANGER. SAVE THE SOIL WITH YOUR SIGNATURE." Below this, it says: "Each passing minute, the soil is assaulted, suffocated, contaminated, exploited, poisoned, mistreated, and depleted. Sign the petition www.people4soil.eu".

**OUR FUTURE IS IN DANGER.
SAVE THE SOIL
WITH YOUR SIGNATURE.**

Each passing minute, the soil is assaulted, suffocated, contaminated, exploited, poisoned, mistreated, and depleted.
Sign the petition www.people4soil.eu

1.3 EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION POLICY / TP ORGANICS

» EIP-AGRI UPDATE

ORGANIC IS OPERATIONAL

Last June, the EIP-AGRI Service Point, in cooperation with IFOAM EU, organised the workshop “Organic is operational” in Hamburg, Germany. The aim of the workshop was to share experiences between members of Operational Groups active in the organic sector. It was the first workshop in its kind, specifically targeted at up and running Operational Groups. The **presentations and other workshops documents are available online at the EIP-AGRI website.**

More examples of Operational Groups in the organic sector can be found in the recent TP Organics brochure **Innovating for organics – Organic Agriculture in EIP-AGRI Operational Groups**. It may serve as inspiration for others to tackle the innovation needs of the organic sector and set-up their own Operational Group.



Read examples of Operational Groups in the organic sector in the recent TP Organics brochure

WANT TO TRANSFORM FOOD & FARMING IN EUROPE?

Get inspired on www.euorganic2030.bio

TRANSFORMING FOOD & FARMING IN EUROPE

An organic roadmap to our Vision 2030

GET INSPIRED

ORGANIC VISION 2030

Read our Vision for sustainable food & farming systems

MAKING IT HAPPEN

See the roadmap to our Vision 2030

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Check out inspiring initiatives from the sector and submit your own

ORGANIC ON EVERY TABLE

Strategies to make organic widely available and recognised

IMPROVE - INSPIRE - DELIVER

Strategies to develop organic further and inspire others

FAIR PLAY - FAIR PAY

Strategies to achieve more transparency and fairness in the value chain

2 IFOAM EU DEVELOPMENTS

SAYING GOODBYE TO:



Tonći Ukas

IFOAM EU and the Policy team bid a fond farewell to our colleague Tonći Ukas. Tonći started as a volunteer with IFOAM EU, arriving from Croatia, in the summer of 2016 as part of the European Volunteer Service programme. Since then, Tonći has had the opportunity to learn about the EU policy process from the perspective of organic farming and to develop his employability skills. This included contributing to IFOAM EU's advocacy and communication work including activities related to the reform of Common Agricultural Policy Post-2020 and the review of the EU fertiliser legislation amongst others. His appetite to get actively involved in IFOAM EU's work, together with his adaptability, enthusiasm and love of languages made Tonći a valuable asset to both IFOAM EU and the Policy team.

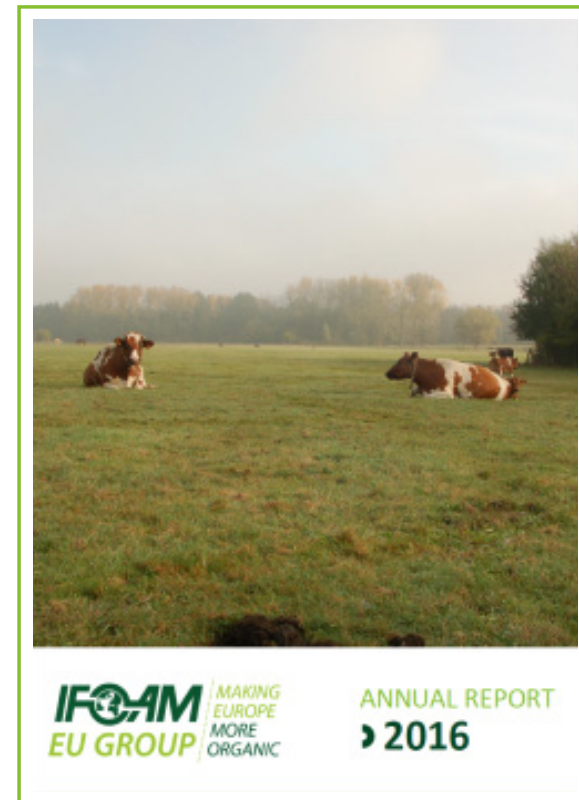


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HOW WE MADE EUROPE MORE ORGANIC IN 2016 – READ OUR ANNUAL REPORT

IFOAM EU's 2016 annual report presents the achievements and activities of our work in making Europe more organic.

In 2016, IFOAM EU and its members advocated on issues such as the organic regulation, GMOs, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), climate change, and plant reproductive materials. For more information about how we interacted with EU institutions and other stakeholders, **consult the 2016 annual report**.



Have a look at our annual report to learn about all our achievements and activities

**OFFER FOR IFOAM EU MEMBERS: 1 MONTH
FREE ACCESS TO ALL ARTICLES ON ORGANIC
MARKET.INFO**

Organic-market.info – the online magazine for international organic markets was media partner at the 11th IFOAM EU Organic Congress in Tallinn this September and have produced video coverage and reports of the event, as well as interviews. With the special offer for IFOAM EU-members, you will now have the opportunity to read and see all OMI's reports, video documentations and interviews as well as other content available for subscribers:

Free access to www.organic-market.info portal (available for 4 weeks from 1–30 November)*

To get the free access:

- Go to: <http://organic-market.info/ifoam-eu>
- Sign up using the form
- You will receive a username, password and link to the European Organic Congress coverage

Before this trial access expires you'll receive from us an email with a short questionnaire. If you're not satisfied with the service of organic-market.info you can terminate your trial run.

If you would like to continue receiving up-to-date organic news, you can extend your trial access after 1 month and continue to benefit from all the advantages for an annual price of €70.

Make full use of this opportunity and check out organic-market.info – we look forward to your interest in us and we hope you'll find your experience of free access very rewarding!

*Applies to IFOAM EU members who are not already subscribed to organic-market.info

[organic-market.info

SPECIAL OFFER

3 EVENTS

3.1 PREVIEW OF EVENTS

SEEDS AS COMMONS

19 October 2017, Demeter, Brussels, Belgium

Seed is the fundament of all our food. Each grain of seed has a long history: generations of farmers and breeders have contributed to crossing and selecting the right seeds for suitably cultivated crops. In the past 50 years, breeding activities underwent major changes. Nowadays, plant breeding is increasingly in the hands of multinational shareholder companies. Plant varieties are not any more freely accessible for everyone anymore as they are often subject to plant variety rights and an increasing number of patents. This profit-based seed system suppresses a wider diversity of breeding activities, which is be urgently needed to supply all farmers – organic and conventional ones – with locally adapted plant varieties. The fact that small scale breeding activities often lack finances to support the necessary breeding facilities, forms an additional obstacle for a seed system with a broader basis.

You are invited to the conference “Seeds as Commons” which will present an analysis of the current seed system. The conference is organised by Demeter EU in cooperation with IFOAM EU. **Visit the IFOAM EU website for more information.**

JOIN NATEXPO – FRANCE’S INTERNATIONAL TRADE SHOW FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTS

22–24 October 2017, Paris 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 23% internationals among 720 exhibitors, an increase of 40% 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
Paris Nord Villepinte, Hall 7

19TH ORGANIC WORLD CONGRESS

9–11 November 2017, New Delhi, India

The Organic World Congress of IFOAM – Organics International is held every 3 years in a different country, this year it will take place in India. The aim of the congress and related activities (pre-conference, General Assembly, side-events and organic exhibition) is to share experiences, innovations and knowledge about the organic world, while giving the organizing country global visibility.



NORDIC ORGANIC FOOD FAIR 2017

15–16 November 2017, MalmöMässan, Sweden

The Nordic Organic Food Fair, co-located with Natural Products Scandinavia, are the Nordic region's biggest trade shows for natural and organic food and drink, health, beauty, eco-living and self-care products.

Returning to MalmöMässan in Sweden, on 15–16 November, the show's exhibitor list is now available to view online at <http://www.nordicorganicexpo.com/exhibitor-list>. This offers an exclusive look at some of the big brand names and emerging start-ups helping to shape the future of the natural and organic sector over the next twelve months.

Building on the success of last year's event, which enjoyed a significant 25% increase in attendees, exhibition space has been selling at an unprecedented rate. With just over a month until doors open, over 95% of exhibitors have already booked for 2017. The Nordic Organic Food Fair offers visiting retailers and buyers its biggest choice of certified natural and organic, sustainable, and free from food and drink products yet.

Register here for a free trade ticket. For more information please visit www.naturalproductsscandinavia.com or www.nordicorganicfoodfair.com

REGISTRATION FOR THE 5TH ORGANIC PROCESSING CONFERENCE IS OPEN

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 learn how its new vision and strategy will help the organic sector to reach their objectives. Participants will discuss how digital tools can enable organic operators to improve quality, and ensure transparency and traceability along the value chain. They will also get an opportunity to look into market trends & new concepts in the organic sector.

Read more about the programme and **register for the conference!**



© Triin Viilvere

CALL FOR PAPERS: 18TH ECOFRUIT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ORGANIC FRUIT-GROWING 2018

19–21 February 2018, Hohenheim, Germany

A call for papers for the **18th Ecofruit International Conference** on organic fruit-growing is open until 24 November 2017. IFOAM EU is a patron of the conference that brings together European organic fruit researchers, advisors and interested practitioners to discuss the latest developments in organic fruit growing and network.

The 18th edition of this conference will be held in Germany at the University of Hohenheim. Sessions will mainly cover issues related pest and disease control, system design, biodiversity and sustainability. Participants are invited to submit topics of interest which may come in the form of 15-minute oral presentations or posters. Further information can be found on **the Ecofruit conference website** or by contacting Jutta Kienzle [jutta \[at\] jutta-kienzle.de](mailto:jutta[at]jutta-kienzle.de)





5TH ORGANIC PROCESSING CONFERENCE

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16-17 JANUARY 2018
Zwolle, The Netherlands

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3.2 REVIEW OF EVENTS

IFOAM EU AT SANA

8–11 September 2017, Bologna, Italy

The 29th International Exhibition of Organic and Natural products – **SANA** – took place in Bologna from 8th to 11th September. Eduardo Cuoco, IFOAM EU Director, and Emanuele Busacca, IFOAM EU Regulation Manager, were invited to speak at the exhibition's opening conference "What regulation to boost the growth of the European organic sector?", organised by **BolognaFiere** and **FederBio**. Among the other speakers were the Deputy Minister of the Italian Agriculture Ministry – Andrea Olivero – and a member of the Italian senate – Maria Teresa Bertuzzi.



Eduardo Cuoco, IFOAM EU Director, and Emanuele Busacca, IFOAM EU Regulation Manager participating at the 29th international exhibition of organic and natural products; © [Sana website](#)

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

20–22 September 2017, Bordeaux, France

FOAM EU, other project partners and regional stakeholders travelled to Nouvelle-Aquitaine, in the South of France, for the sixth interregional Field Visit of the **SME ORGANICS project**. The visit was hosted by **INTERBIO** – representing the organic sector in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region.

On day 1, project partners learned from the regions of Aargau (Switzerland), Navarra (Spain) and Puglia (Italy) about how they are progressing with the development of their organic action plans. This was followed by a focused discussion on effective stakeholder engagement during the development and implementation of their action plans.

On day 2, participants had opportunity learn about different organic initiatives taking place in Nouvelle-Aquitaine including presentations about the organisation of **INTERBIO** and more specifically its activities in organic catering. This was followed by presentations on how different organic actors are cooperating in organic cereal storage and processing

(Val Bio Ouest) and regional marketing of organic products (Bio Sud Ouest France). Afterwards participants have the chance to visit an organic *incubator* farm project working with new entrants in the commune of Marmande and southwest platform of the producer-consumer coop (Biocoop).

On the final day, participants reflected on some of the different best practice examples that have been considered as part of the project so far, both in terms of their relevance for action plan development and the scope to new similar initiative using public support. The next field visit will take place in Northwest Romania in November.



A visit to Le Pôle Solidaire Maraîcher Bio – an organic incubator farm project working with new entrants in the commune of Marmande; © Nouvelle Aquitaine

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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**' is a project from 2014–2018 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

- › 19 October 2017 **Seeds as commons**
Brussels, Belgium

- › 22–24 October 2017 **Natexpo**
Paris, France

- › 9 November 2017 **Keeping GMOs out of food**
Workshop on processing aids
Fulda, Germany

- › 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**
Brussels, Belgium

- › 10 December 2017 **Organic farming as a model for sustainable**
agricultural systems
Bergamo, Italy

- › 16–17 January 2018 **5th Organic Processing Conference**
Zwolle, The Netherlands

- › 17–18 January 2018 **Bio-Beurs**
Nürnberg, Germany

- › 14–17 February 2018 **BIOFACH 2018**
Nuremberg, Germany

- › 19–21 February 2018 **18th International Conference on Organic**
Fruit Growing
University of Hohenheim, Germany



Christopher Stopes, President of IFOAM EU, welcomes participants of the 11th European Organic Congress; © Triin Viilvere



Rue du Commerce 124, 1000 Brussels, Belgium
 Phone: +32-2-280 12 23
 Fax: +32-2-735 73 81
 Email: [communication \[at\] ifoam-eu.org](mailto:communication@ifoam-eu.org)
www.ifoam-eu.org  

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Please send any comments or contributions to the newsletter to [communication\[at\]ifoam-eu.org](mailto:communication@ifoam-eu.org).

For further information contact your national board member or the office in Brussels.

Editors IFOAM EU Newsletter: Eric Gall, Magdalena Wawrzonkowska, Eva Berckmans, Triin Viilvere

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