



# **EU Legislation Review and Organics Trade regime: State of play**

**Biofach, 12 February 2015**

**DG Agriculture and Rural Development –Unit B4 Organics**

# **Legislation review**

## **State-of-play**

# EU Legislative procedure

Three actors:

- European Commission
- Council of Ministers
- European Parliament

## March 2014

The European Commission adopted

- Proposal for a Regulation of the EP and the of the Council on organic production and labelling of organic products (repealing R. 834/2007)
- Action Plan for the future of organic production in the European Union

## Council of Ministers

- Presidencies: Greece (1-2014), Italy (2-2014), Latvia (1-2015)
- Council of Ministers meetings
- Special Committee on Agriculture
- Working Party on Foodstuff Quality (Organic Farming)

# Greek Presidency

First meetings of the Working Party on Foodstuff Quality (Organic Farming)

Technical work started with a first reading of the text: presentation by the Commission and reactions from Member States

# Italian Presidency

Technical reading concluded

## **Council of Ministers of 16 December 2014:**

- large support to the work done by the Italian Presidency
- good basis for continuing negotiations in order to find a final compromise

# Latvian Presidency

Ambitious agenda of Council, CSA and Working Party meetings

Objective: to achieve a general approach in the Council



# European Parliament

- Started to work after May 2014 elections
- Rapporteur: Mr Martin Häusling (Greens), appointed in September 2014
- Discussions take place in COMAGRI to deliver a draft report that will be adopted in Plenary
- COMENVI to deliver an opinion

## Role of the Commission during this part of the procedure

- Explanation of the Proposal and clarification
- Support to the Presidency in its efforts to build an agreement
- Listen to Member States, European Parliament and stakeholders positions
- Address concerns with a **fresh look**

## Next steps

- If an agreement is reached => trilogues will start in view of the adoption of a new Regulation
- If no agreement => Commission Working Programme for 2015 states withdrawal of the proposal
  - **Commission will not be able to put a new proposal on the table in less than two years**
  - **Uncertainty for the organic sector will remain**

# **Organics Trade Regime**

## **State-of-play**

# Trade Regime: current situation ...

Importation of organic products from:

- 12 recognised TC (Argentina, Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, India, Israel, Japan, **Korea**, Switzerland, Tunisia, United States and New Zealand)
- Only 7 mutual equivalence arrangements
- 63 recognised CBs for the purpose of equivalence
- Compliance regime not applicable yet
- Import authorisations by MS (not allowed since July 2014, no longer valid after July 2015)

## ... what will change

- New provisions on export
- Move from equivalence to compliance for CBs
- Reinforced rules for accreditation of CBs  
Recognition of equivalency of TC granted only through international agreements (directives for negotiation adopted by the Council on 16 June 2014)

# 12 equivalency recognitions: state of play

## Korea

- Recognition since 1 February 2015
- Reciprocal
- Partial: processed agricultural products
- Last recognition granted according to old rules

# 12 equivalency recognitions: state of play

## United States

- Peer review in US (May 2014)
- Peer review in EU (July 2014)
- US-EU Organic Working Group
- Since 21/10/14, antibiotics not allowed in apples and pears in US
- Organic wine
- Recognition will be extended for an unspecified period of time



# 12 equivalency recognitions: state of play

## Canada

- EU-Canada Organic Working Group since 2014
- Recognition extended for unspecified period
- Scope extensions under assessment:
  - Canada: Multi-ingredient organic products with imported organic ingredients
  - EU: Organic wine
- FVO audit in Canada on September 2015

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# 12 equivalency recognitions: state of play

## Japan

Scope extensions under assessment:

- ☐ Japan: imported ingredients
- ☐ EU: processed animal products and organic wine

# 12 equivalency recognitions: state of play

## Israel

- Scope extensions under assessment:
  - Israel: Aquaculture and imported ingredients
- FVO audit in 2015, follow-up of 2013 audit

# 12 equivalency recognitions: state of play

## India

- Exclusion of processed products in 2013
- Scope extension under assessment:
  - India: Processed products with imported ingredients and honey
- FVO audit in 2015, follow-up of 2012 audit

# 12 equivalency recognitions: state of play

## Australia

Scope extension under assessment:

- Australia: Livestock products

# 12 equivalency recognitions: state of play

## New Zealand

Scope extension under assessment:

- New Zealand: ingredients imported from the Pacific islands

# 12 equivalency recognitions: state of play

## Argentina

Scope extensions under assessment:

- Argentina: organic wine and organic aquaculture
- EU: equivalency recognition of EU production rules and control measures

## **Applicant countries**

Bolivia

Chili

China

Colombia

Dominican Republic

Ecuador

Honduras

Mexico

Paraguay

Serbia

Thailand

Turkey



# **Control bodies recognised for imports of equivalent products**

- 63 CBs listed in Annex IV of R.1235/2008
- Recognised and supervised by the Commission with the help of co-reporters Member States
- Scope extensions under assessment
- Activation of compliance postponed until 31 October 2015 (R. 1287/2014)

