

Anti Fraud Initiative

Brussels – 13-10-2011



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European Commission

Agriculture and Rural Development

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Unit H.3 – Organic farming



European Commission
Agriculture and
Rural Development



The list of equivalent control bodies in Third Countries

- Procedure of the application**
- Evaluation of the application process**



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Relevant documents

Regulation (EC) No 834/2007

**- on organic production and labelling
of organic products**

Regulation (EC) No 889/2008

**- laying down detailed rules for
the implementation of No 834/2007**

Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008

**- laying down detailed rules
for imports of organic products
from third countries**

Guideline on imports 15.12.2008 Rev.1



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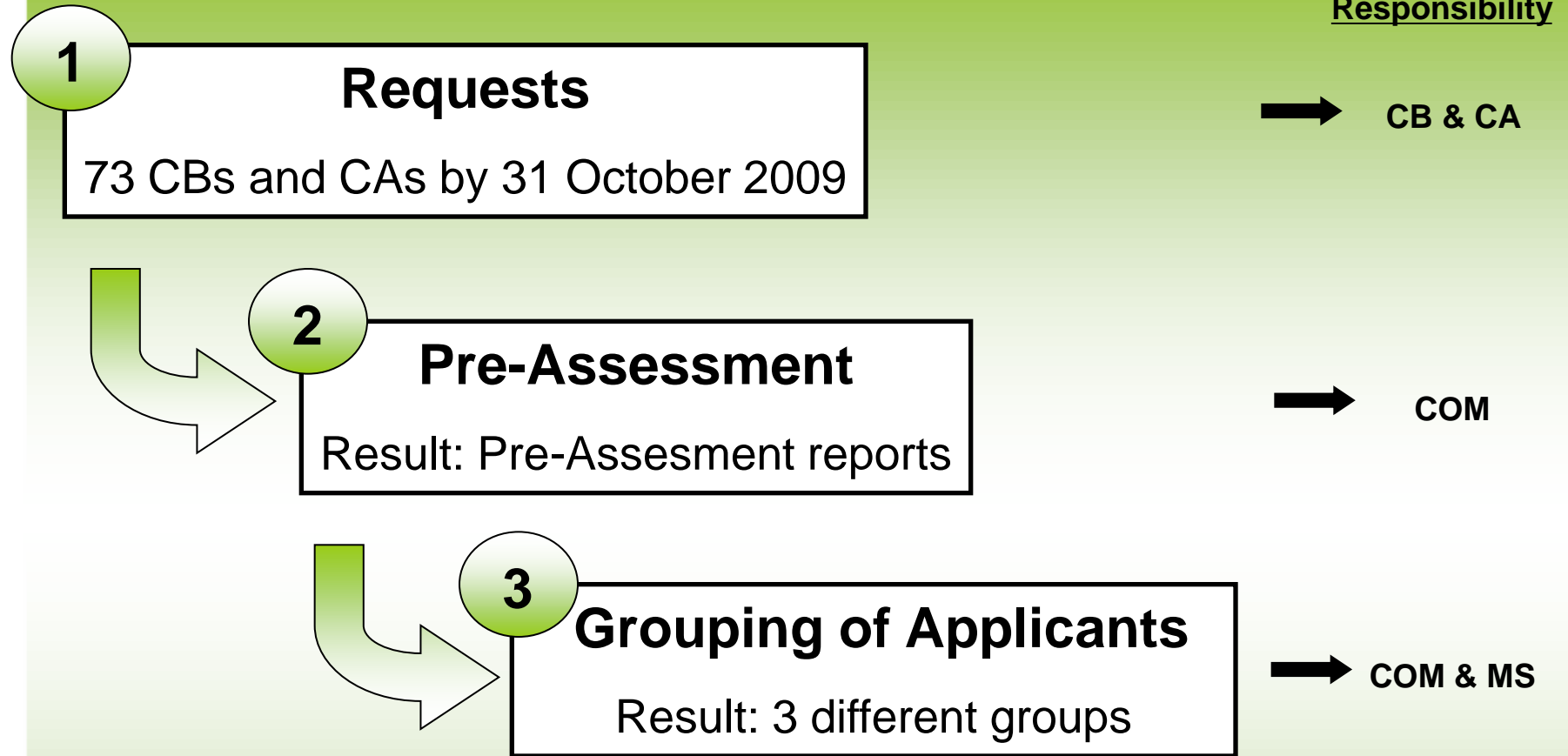


Procedure of application



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Grouping of Applicants

3 different groups

Red group



Yellow group



Green group



FINDINGS	- Not acceptable - Serious - Minor	--- - Serious - Minor	--- --- ---
AV. NUMBER OF FINDINGS	(3 / 8 / 8)	(0 / 1 / 2)	(0 / 0 / 0)
RESULT	Not complete	Complete but clarifications needed	Recognised



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4

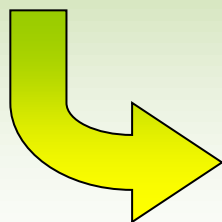
Informing applicants – Feb. 2011

Result: Letter sent to applicants,
asking for further information

Responsibility



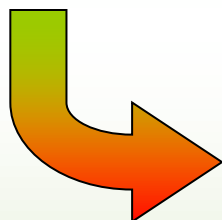
COM



4.1

Letter sent to yellow group

Info: Some info not provided in sufficient way / Requesting further info in Annex A / Reply within 2 months / If sent, examination can be continued;



4.2

Letter sent to red group

Info: Application not complete / Not considered for the first list / Reasons provided in Annex A / Invitation to complete application / If provided, than further examination;



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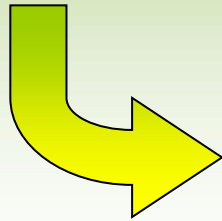




4

Informing applicants – Feb. 2011

Result: Letter sent to applicants,
asking for further information



4.1

Letter sent to yellow group

Info: Some info not provided in sufficient way / Requesting further info in Annex A / Reply within 2 months / If sent, examination can be continued;



4.2

Letter sent to red group

Info: Application not complete / Not considered for the first list / Reasons provided in Annex A / Invitation to complete application / If provided, than further examination;



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Complete application but clarification needed

Responsibility

5.1

Receipt of additional information

Result: Answers and additional documents received by most yellow CBs



CBs

6.1

Examination of additional Information – May 2011

Result: Comments by Delegates



COM & MS

7.1

Drafting of Annex IV

Result: 30 CBs on the list, 17 pending



COM

8.1

Vote in SCOF

Result: Publication first list



COM & MS

Info to pending applicants – Sept. 2011

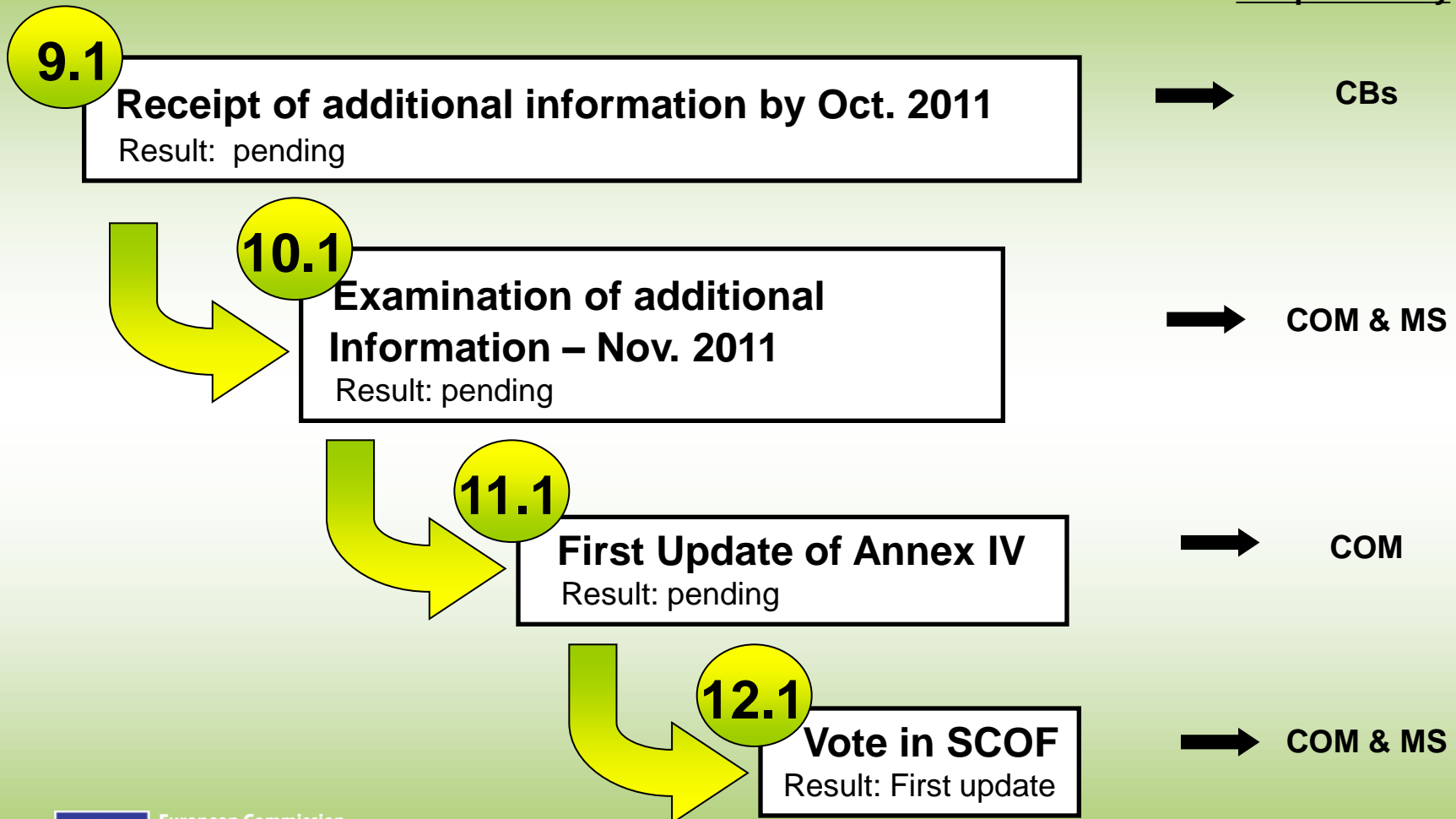
Result: Request to provide additional information



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Complete application but clarification needed





4

Informing applicants – Feb. 2011

Result: Letter sent to applicants,
asking for further information



4.1

Letter sent to yellow group

Info: Some info not provided in sufficient way / Requesting further info in Annex A / Reply within 2 months / If sent, examination can be continued;



4.2

Letter sent to red group

Info: Application not complete / Not considered for the first list / Reasons provided in Annex A / Invitation to complete application / If provided, than further examination;



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Not complete application

5.2

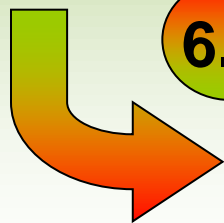
Receipt of additional information

Result: Answers and additional documents received by 60% of red CBs

Responsibility



CBs



6.2

Examination of additional Information – May 2011

Result: Comments by Delegates



COM & MS



7.2

Drafting of Annex IV

Result: 1 CB for first update, 12 pending



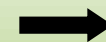
COM



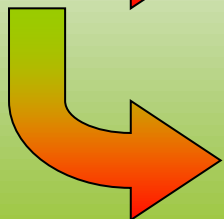
8.2

Vote in SCOF

Result: Publication first update



COM & MS



Info to pending applicants – Aug. 2011

Result: Request to provide additional information



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Not complete application

9.2

Receipt of additional information by Nov. 2011

Result: pending

Responsibility



CBs

10.2

**Examination of additional
Information – Nov. / Dec. 2011**

Result: pending



COM & MS

11.2

First Update of Annex IV

Result: pending



COM

12.2

Vote in SCOF

Result: First update



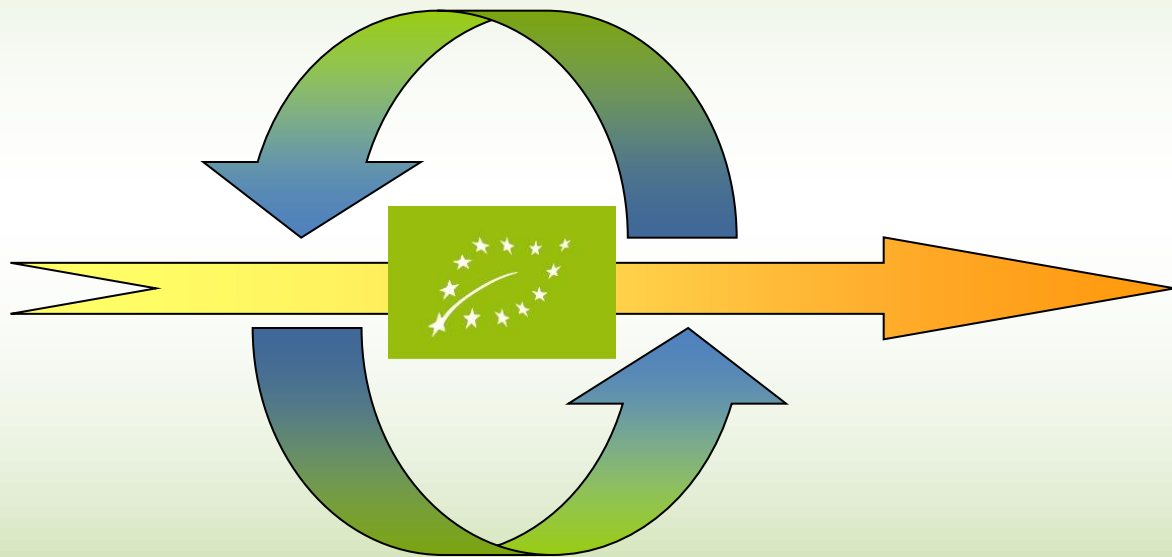
COM & MS



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Evaluation of the application process



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General observations

(For the following observations 74 application dossiers were taken into account)

- **New system for Control Bodies & Assessment Bodies**
- **New system for the Commission & Member States**
- **Relatively long evaluation phase**
- **Not all CBs showed serious will (~15% did not reply to 1st letter)**
- **6-eye principle for examination (COM + 2xMS)**
- **Volume of application dossiers between 40 to 400 pages**
- **Applications mainly in EN, mixed with min. 5 other languages**



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On side of the Control Bodies

Facilitating aspects

- Applications were sent in time (by 31/Oct/2009)
- Mainly one single language was used for the application
- Quick response to requests of COM by CBs
- In many cases well structured documents provided
- Taking effort to improve application



On side of the Control Bodies

Common problems identified – Completeness of the dossier

- Activities not described exhaustively
- Production standards and/or control measures not or only partly provided
- Office / Witness Audit reports not or only partly provided
- Equivalence assessment not or only partly provided
- Notifications to Third Countries not provided
- List of operators not provided in the internet
- Undertaking with Article 12 of Reg. (EC) No 1235/2008 not provided



On side of the Control Bodies

Common problems identified – Quality of the dossier

- Overview of activities: (MS / TC / rec. TC; quantities; nature of products)
- Inconsistent standards or control measures
- Assessment requirements not fulfilled (side by side / inventory / resolving)



Conclusions for Control Bodies

CBs are responsible for their application

- ✓ Completeness check of dossier
- ✓ Quality check of dossier
- ✓ Only providing documents the COM has asked for
- ✓ Avoid sending documents which do not speak for themselves
- ✓ Statements concerning the assessment of equivalence
have to be issued by the assessment body!



On side of the Assessment Bodies

Facilitating aspects

- Partly well structured assessment reports
- Partly uniform approaches to handle requirements
- Efforts to improve process and deliver requested documents in time



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On side of the Assessment Bodies

Common problems identified – Completeness of the dossier

- Partly missing information (Structure of CB, QM, sampling policy,...)
- Explicit confirmation on equivalence of production standard and control measures was missing
- Follow up if NCs were found?



On side of the Assessment Bodies

Common problems identified – Quality of the dossier

- Inconsistent standards or control measures
- Assessment requirements only partly fulfilled (ISO65 versus GL on imports)
- Information of office audit reports was not focused on Third Country activities
- Reports general: Description of the audit program but no or only limited results reported
- Witness audit reports: Wrong geographical scope, place of audit unknown, in view cases copy paste mentality;



Conclusions for Assessment Bodies

ABs are responsible for the quality of the assessment report

- ✓ Quality check of standard
- ✓ Quality check of equivalence assessment (If CB provided docs)
- ✓ Reports: Taking better care of explicitly mentioned requirements
- ✓ Reports: Providing detailed results next to the audit program
- ✓ Reports: Harmonised report structure (?)
- ✓ Learning to say “NO”



Future Objective

Win-Win-Win Situation (Applicants/Assessment Bodies/ Commission)

Road to go:

- Harmonisation and Standardisation of the application process
- Harmonisation and Standardisation of the system maintenance
- Further development of the Import GL
- Raising awareness of well prepared applications on side of the CBs
- Alignment of assessment reports to requirements

Achievements:

- ✓ Saving time, money and other resources
- ✓ Standardised and transparent system
- ✓ Increasing confidence in the system



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Thank you for your attention !



www.organic-farming.europa.eu



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