



Declaration of the International Conference “Improving Integrity of Organic Supply Chains”

September 21-22, 2017, 170 participants representing governments, competent authorities, control bodies, producers and buyers from 14 countries came together in Odessa (Ukraine) to discuss the progress made following the commitments made in an earlier AFI workshop in Kyiv two years ago. That workshop was organised when a scandal caused by contaminated organic product imported from the region led to serious financial and reputational damage to the organic livestock industry in 15 EU member states. The declaration of that workshop called for increased rigor in inspection, certification and supervision, due diligence, better communication and collaboration, better farming practices to regain market and consumer confidence.

This conference acknowledges that progress is made but that more needs to be done to establish robust supply chains.

1. We applaud the response of the Ukrainian Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food and welcome the start of the communication between Ukrainian, European and American authorities.
2. We reconfirm the potential of Ukraine as a main source of quality organic food and feed ingredients, for its own and European and North-American markets.
3. We appreciate the participation from EU, Swiss and US organic authorities and their willingness to consult with the stakeholders concerned regarding the additional guidelines that are in place to protect their markets, their consumers, from recurrence of the earlier feed and food fraud, and protect genuine Ukrainian organic producers from false competition.
4. We conclude that there are serious problems caused for the organic trade due to divergent implementation of the guidelines in the different EU member states.
5. We stress that these additional measures are a burden also for the serious organic producers, processors and businesses and wish that those supply chains are relieved from extra measures once they have demonstrated consistent compliance.
6. Transparency is crucial to monitor the development. We call on all producers, processors, businesses and control bodies to provide key data to the ministry.
7. To provide for fair competition we urge the responsible authorities to apply similar guidelines in all countries with risky supply chains.
8. We recognize that strengthening communication and cooperation among producers, processors, traders, certification bodies, accreditation bodies and government agencies is vital to assure consumers about the quality of Ukrainian organic products, and that consumer confidence is critical to growing the market demand for organic produce.
9. We call on all stakeholders in the organic supply chains to support this effort.
10. We welcome further AFI type workshops addressing food and feed fraud.
11. We appreciate the Swiss support to enable the development of the organic sector in Ukraine. We thank the Ukrainian Ministry for its excellent cooperation. We thank FiBL, together with its Ukrainian partners, for the organisation of the conference.

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