



The European Commission's approach to fight fraud

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The European Commission's approach to fight fraud

- 1. Organics - from marginal to mainstream*
- 2. Strengthening controls & fighting fraud*
- 3. EU Official Controls & organics*
- 4. Other actions and initiatives*
- 5. The review of the EU organic legislation*



1. Organics in the EU - from marginal to mainstream

- *Production in 2015: 11 million ha, + 21 % in 5 years*
- *Consumption: 28 billion €, German market x 4 in 15 years*
- *New driving market forces: supermarket chains and food & agro industries*
- *EU-market grows faster than EU-production ➤ imports up*



2. Strengthening controls & fighting fraud

- *Minimal rules for sampling and additional control visits*
- *Obligatory communication between CBs*
- *Introduction of electronic import certificate*
- *On-the-spot supervision of CBs and annual reporting*
- *Monitoring and co-operation on irregularities (OFIS)*
- *Additional Guidelines*



3. Official Controls & Organics

New Regulation (EU) 2017/625) on EU Official Controls (OCR) to replace Regulation (EC) No 882/2004:

- *Organic in the scope of the OCR – no more ambiguity*
- *Risk assessment for fraud in the OCR*
- *Unannounced official controls targeting frauds*
- *Improved cooperation between administrations*
- *Financial penalties*
- *EU reference centres*
- *Integrated approach for imports*



4. Other action & initiatives

- *The EU Food Fraud Network and the System for Administrative Assistance & Food Fraud*
- *Action Plan for the future of Organic Production in the European Union (2014-2020)*
- *EU Research: i.e. Food Integrity Project (2014-2018)*



5. The EU organic review – controls and certification

- *Link with EU Official Controls clarified and strengthened*
- *Additional rules in organic Regulation to cater for specific needs:*
 - *specific risk criteria and frequency of controls*
 - *delegation of tasks to control bodies*
 - *action in case of suspected and established non-compliances and provisions on exchange of information*
 - *harmonised organic certificate including in electronic form*
 - *limitation of exemption for unpacked products*
 - *prohibition of double certification*
 - *specific obligations in case of sub-contracting*
 - *market controls*
 - *Implementing / Delegated Acts*



5. The EU organic review - trade

- *Create a level playing field for EU operators vis-à-vis third countries operators*
- *Control bodies: production rules and control measures applied will have to be fully compliant, as opposed to equivalent, with the EU legislation*
- *Third countries: fully-fledged international trade agreements to recognise third countries equivalence*



5. The EU organic review – production rules

- *Product scope extended*
 - *salt, cork, essential oils used in cosmetics...*
 - *possibility to add new products*
- *Additional animal production rules*
 - *poultry, rabbits, deer*
- *Further harmonisation of production rules*
 - *exceptions and flexibility are granted to all producers across the board*
 - *limitation of derogations*
- *Clarification and improving legal security*



5. The EU organic review

- *Text agreed at trilogue of 28 June 2017*
- *Cleaning exercise on-going*
- *Endorsement by EU Parliament and Council in the coming months*
- *New Regulation foreseen to apply by 2020*



- *Thank you for your attention*