

Facilitation of the Harmonization of the National Legislations for Organic Agriculture in the SEE Countries

Mr. Tomislav Petrović
Ms. Matija Vukušić

Content

- Regulation ,
- Regulation Currently in Force,
- Objective
- Current Situation
- The Key Questions
- Activities
- Results

Regulation

- Organic production at the level of the European Union is regulated through a series of Regulations of Council and the Commission. Member States have an obligation to the same Regulation to directly apply it, except articles which allow member states the structure of certain issues at the national level.

Regulation Currently in Force

- Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91,
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 of 5 September 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control,
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 of 8 December 2008 laying down detailed rules for implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 as regards the arrangements for imports of organic products from third countries
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 1254/2008 of 15 December 2008 amending Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 laying down detailed rules for implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control

Regulation Currently in Force

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 426/2011 of 2 May 2011 amending Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 710/2009 of 5 August 2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, as regards laying down detailed rules on organic aquaculture animal and seaweed production,
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 505/2012 of 14 June 2012 amending and correcting Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 203/2012 of 8 March 2012 amending Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, as regards detailed rules on organic wine.

- 
- All the SEE countries aiming to become an EU member need to harmonize their legislation with EU legislation.
 - Having regionally harmonised legislation is a precondition for a continuous and growing cooperation and exchange of organic products between the countries in the Balkan region.

Objective

- The objective of the SWG RRD expert group on organic legislation is to discuss the level of harmonisation of the national legislation in the Balkan countries and identify possibilities for exchange of information and experiences.

By fostering positive experiences the process of full harmonisation of the legislation will be facilitated.

Current Situation

- Different SEE countries are on different levels of development of national legislation for governing organic production e.g. Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo have no legislation in force, other countries have gradually adopted the above Regulation (Serbia, Macedonia, Albania) while some countries e.g. Montenegro regulation is still according to the old Regulation (EEC) no. 2092/91 which was abolished upon the entry into force of Council Regulation 834/2007. Currently in the process of adopting new law Regulation 834/2007 (Montenegro)?
- In order to facilitate the changes so that the regional cooperation between the EU member and Non EU member SEE countries may continue and further develop Croatia might provide critical recommendations and experiences on streamlining the national legislations with the EU regulation and facilitate the regional development of organic production.

The Key Questions

The key questions to be discussed by the Expert Advisory Group (EAG) on Organic Production in SEE within the SWG are:

- Which were/are the hindering factors that created the problem with the harmonization in each of the participating countries?
- Which are the priority areas in which experience from new EU member countries is needed in order to facilitate/support the harmonisation of the national legislation?
- How can the EAG within the SWG address this issue?

Activities

- To adopt Council Regulation 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products – deadline 6 months
- To adopt Commission Regulation 889/2008 and all its amendments in a form of one, eventually two Regulations on organic farming (plant and animal production) – deadline 6-10 months

Activities

- Control bodies
 - are required to complete accreditation process by the national accreditation houses
 - It allows placing control bodies to the list of EU
 - Products that are certified by such control bodies can enter without obstacles to EU market (Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1235/2008.)

Results

- SEE Countries have harmonized their legislation with the EU legislation.
- better cooperation between the control bodies in the Region
- better recognition of quality organic products from the region
- enabled easier exchange of organic goods among the countries of Southeast Europe and the EU,
- opening new markets will boost the economy to increase production of organic products, thus increasing the number of consumers of these products.

TO OPEN DISCUSSION!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!