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Organic Products

Possible changes in EU-legislation for organic farming

2004

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Report Highlights:

During 2005 the legislation for organic production in the European Union will be redone with the focus on simplification, transparency and consumer confidence, according to a speech given by the new Commissioner for agriculture and rural development Mariann Fisher Boel to the Organic Farming Congress in Berlin.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
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The new Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural development, Marianne Fisher Boel, stated her view in a speech for the Organic Farming Congress held in Berlin 7-8 December, 2004.

During 2005 the legislation for organic production (2092/91) in the European Union will be reworked with focus on simplification, transparency and consumer confidence, said Mariann Fisher Boel to the Organic Farming Congress.

The Commissioner said for example, that it is important to phase out the derogation that allows organic livestock to be fed with conventionally produced animal feed. This is important to keep consumer confidence. Consumers do not expect organic livestock to eat anything but organic feed. The reason for allowing this derogation, which allows up to 20 percent non-organic feed, was to help build up a viable organic livestock sector, and the derogation has now served its purpose.

This derogation is due to expire in 2005, or in some Member States in 2010. Some organizations expect this derogation to be further extended rather than phased out.

Reports also say:

As a result of the organic Action plan the EU organic legislation will be reworked and simplified in 2005. Focus will be moved from the level of details and put on principles and criteria instead.

This is expected to be good for the organic farmers in the European Union since the very detailed legislation of today has given the development of the organic farming big problems in the different Member States. The conditions for farming are very different in the different Member States, depending on the natural conditions.

In the new and reworked regulation there will also be emphasis on a risk based control and an effort to make imports from third countries easier. There might also be a possibility to allow regional variations.

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E34025	European Action Plan on Organic Food and Farming	06/21/04
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