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European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development



Organic food processing

Biofach (Nürnberg, 15/2/2007)

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Summary

- Proposal for a new Council Regulation
- Principles and rules for food processing
- Implementing rules
- Annex VI
- Main challenges regarding food processing
- Conclusions



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General approach agreed in the Council

- Objectives
- Overall principles
- Principles applicable to processing
- General rules
- Criteria
- Exceptional production rules



Objectives

- Consumers' demands
- High quality
- Wide variety
- Not harm environment, health and animal welfare



Overall principles

- No use of GMOs
- Restricting use of external inputs
 - Organic
 - Natural or naturally-derived
- Exceptional use of chemically synthesised inputs



Principles applicable to processing of organic food

- Organic agricultural ingredients
- Additives, processing aids, etc: restricted use
- True nature: avoid misleading
- Processing with care



General rules on the production of processed food

- Separation in time or space
- Mainly ingredients of agricultural origin
- Positive lists
- No simultaneous presence of the same ingredient (organic and non-organic or in-conversion)
- No reconstitution of properties
- Implementing rules, Regulatory Committee



Criteria for certain products and substances in processing

- Subject to objectives and principles
- Authorised alternatives are not available
- Impossible to produce/preserve without
- Found in nature
- Processes



Exceptional production rules

- Well established food products
- Food additives and other substances
 - Specific
 - Community or national law
- Regulatory Committee



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