Import - Implementation rules, reasons and concerns

Seminar at Biofach 2008

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Reasons for new import regulation

- **Action plan for organic food and farming of June 2004 (Action point 18): disadvantages of the current system – not accessible enough for operators in third countries; import certificate system not efficient**
- **Deadline was in place to develop a better import system (End of 2006)**
- **Now a new import regulation from 1. Jan 2007 has been decided – what are the implications?**
- **What were the main steps in this decision process?**

Revision of the EU Regulation 2092/91 – what happened since last Biofach

- **First draft December 2005 for a new Council regulation**
  - Introduction of new system, including proposals for import
- **From January 2006 until June 2007**
  - intensive discussion process between the private sector, EU Member states and EU commission and partly Council and EU parliament
- **Final version of the Council regulation (EC) No 1991/2006** on import 21 of December 2006
  - Import rules are already concluded and apply from 1 January 2007**.**
- **Final Council regulation (EC) 834/2007 has been decided**
  - Import rules are integrated in this regulation. Work on implementing rules started.

Revision of the EU Regulation 2092/91 – what you should know?

- **Detailed EU commission implementing rules are in elaboration (put in force 1. Jan. 2009):**
- **In January 2008 the EU Comissions made 2 proposals, one for production and one for import – currently discussed, decided Mai/June 2009 (?)**
- **What is the difference to old regulation EEC 2092/91:**
  - Most of the annexes will be transposed without change - however with changed structure
  - „Normal“ and „exceptional“ production rules – possibility for a certain regional flexibility (given criteria)
  - New logo – mandatory in Europe – option for import.
  - Indication of origin (EU agriculture / Non-EU agriculture)
  - Import rules. *See presentation Herman van Boxem*

Concerns and questions of the private sector, connected with the new import rules?

(e.g. from workshops of ORGAP Project, IFOAM EU commentary)

General concerns:

> **There will be 3 relevant documents, which are complementary – but this might be confusing for producers**

> **There will be more flexibility for national governments within a given frame – but this needs transparent decision procedure**

Regarding import

> **The supervision of all proposed systems needs significant ressources and capacities!**

> **Avoidance of unnessary burdens (allowance of electronic certificates)**

> **Work of IFOAM-IOAS private accreditation system and Task force for harmonisation (FAO-OECD-IFOAM) should be taken into account**

> **Guidelines are necessary for: accreditation of control bodies, equivalence assessment**