The revised EU import scheme: ensuring organic integrity?!

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Factors determining organic non-compliances:

› Monetary profit of non-compliance
› Probability for detection
› Penalty in case of detection (monetary and social)

Conclusions:
› Highest risk: Imports
  (Countries without functioning national control system)
  › No severe penalties
  › Low(er) probability for detection
New Import system

› Burden from traders has been shifted to CB’s

› Great opportunity for more efficiency and efficacy – depending on quality of implementation
  › Quality of surveillance
  › Procedures for suspected or detected irregularities
  › Clear responsibilities for dealing with (suspicion of) irregularities
  › International Complaints Procedure
Administrative Procedures

- Clear procedures for updating the list of recognized CB’s

- CB’s have to prove activities in a country to be recognized – but need recognition to find clients

- Ceasing Import Authorisations by 2014?
  - Not all countries are covered
  - Not all product categories are covered
Concerns caused by lack of information/transparency

› Target-oriented information and exchange
  › electronic newsletter, info and training events at fairs by EU

› Publication of all standards recognized as being equivalent

› Information on interpretation of EU Regulation and precedence cases (in English)

Supports harmonization
Bilateral agreement US - EU

- Strengthening the trade between US/EU
- Important signal for potential of equivalence negotiations

However
- Little impact or rather negative impact on international trade as long as it is limited to the US/EU
Future Perspectives

- 92% of retail market is in EU/US
- 85% of organic farmers are outside EU/US

We need a common international understanding on organic (Codex Alimentarius, IFOAM standard)
Thank you very much

Sources:
Anti-Fraud Initiative (AFI) workshops www.organic-integrity.org
Certcost www.certcost.org
  › Report on evaluation of the Revision of REG. EEC 2092/91 import regime… (2011)
  › Improving the organic certification system - Recommendations from the CERTCOST project (2011)
  › Economic analysis of certification systems for organic food and farming: synthesis report of results Results Anti Fraud Initiative Workshops