



European Commission  
Agriculture and Rural Development



# Proposed Council Regulation on organic production

European Joint Organic Congress, Odense

30 – 31 May 2006

Herman Van Boxem, on behalf of Isabelle PEUTZ



# Introduction

## ■ Evolution

- Organic production at a cross roads
- Facts and figures

## ■ Policy framework

- Strategic vision; European Action Plan for Organic Food and Farming
- Other Community policies or studies

## ■ Legal Framework

- Existing rules
- Proposed new rules

## ■ Conclusion



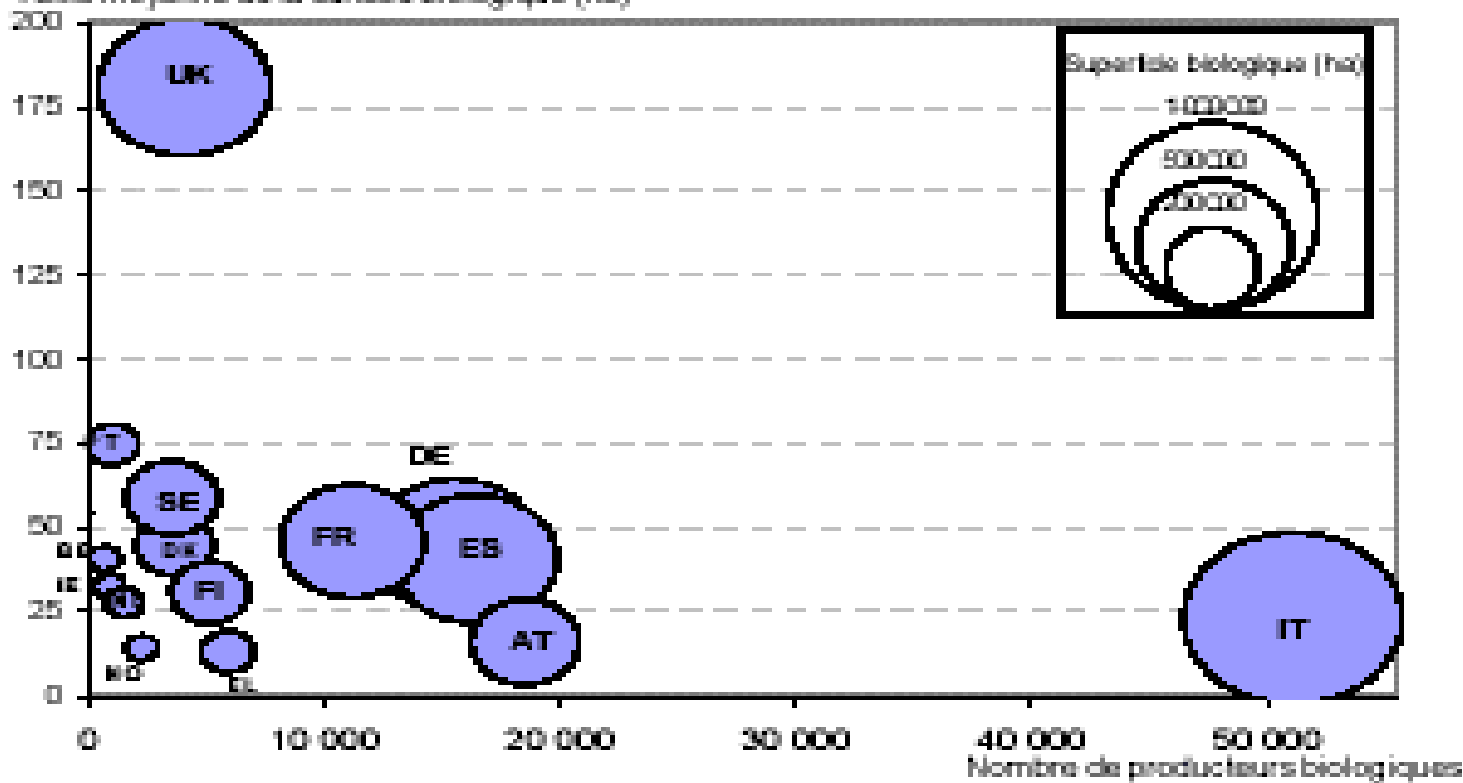
# Evolution

- **Organic production at a cross roads**
  - Impressive growth since regulation of sector in 1991
  - From mainly small scale independent farms
    - to also larger scale corporate enterprises
  - From mainly direct sales or specialised channels
    - to also larger volume global trade and supermarket sales
  - Need to ensure further development of the sector



## Graphique 5: Producteurs biologiques: superficie, taille moyenne de la superficie et nombre de producteurs, 2002

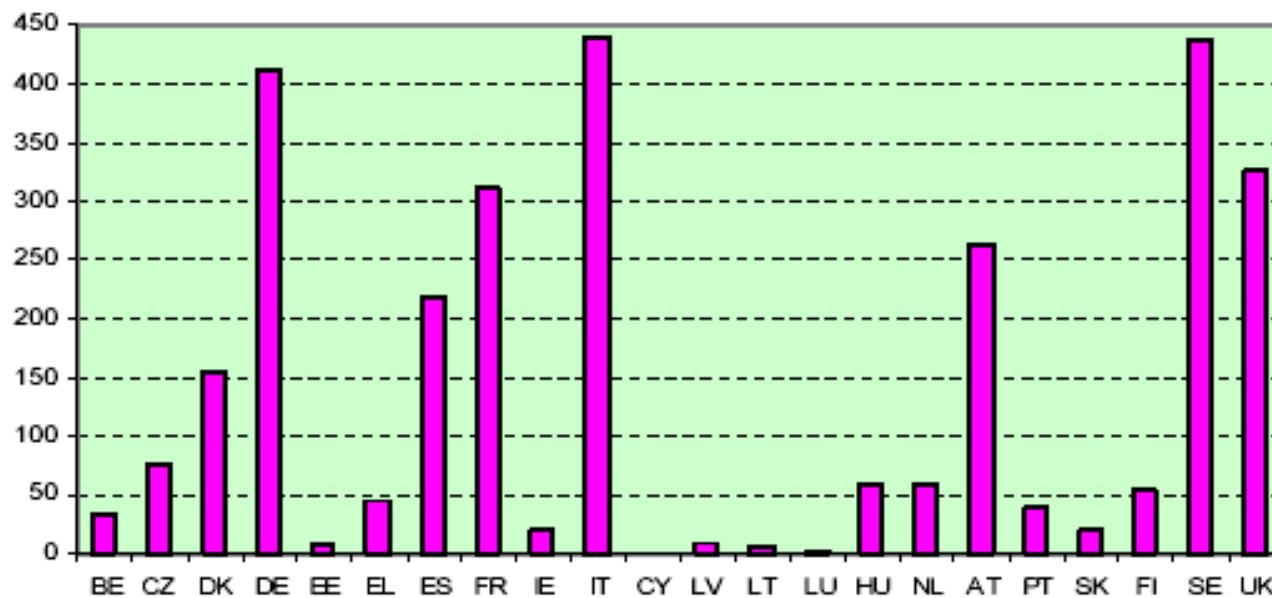
Taille moyenne de la surface biologique (ha)





- Animal production (2.3 % of total)

Figure 12 Certified livestock units (LU) in EU-25, 2003 (000)





European Commission  
Agriculture and Rural Development

# Policy Framework

## Overall strategic vision for the future needed

- ➔ European Action Plan for Organic Food and Farming
  - Three years extensive consultation
  - Adopted in June 2004
  - Conclusions of the Council in November 2004:
    - Implement the EAP on the basis of concrete measures
    - Assure simplification and overall coherence
    - Bring forward proposals in the course of 2005



# Policy Framework

- **Acting upon other Community policies and studies**
  - Community research on organic production
  - Communication on sustainable development of aquaculture
  - Simplification and better regulation



## Legal Framework - Existing rules

- Important role expansion sector
- Developed from private standards base
- Too complex and multiple derogations
- Objectives and principles not easily identifiable
- Variation in interpretation hampers free circulation



## Legal Framework - Proposed rules

### Implements European Action Plan:

- Scope: limited extension (aquaculture, wine, no non-food)
- Standards: completion, further harmonisation and reinforcement
- Flexibility: exceptions for adaptation to local conditions
- Facilitates free circulation by promoting common concept
- GMOs: clarification or rules
- Improves control system
- Import rules: permanent rules are laid down



## Legal Framework - Proposed rules

### Simplification and better regulation:

- Brings together objectives, principles and basic rules
- Reduces the level of detail in Council Regulation
- Control provisions in line with general food control (Reg. 882/2004)
- Management Committee (to lay down implementing rules)



## Legal Framework - Proposed rules

### Scope:

- Only minor change to current scope:
  - Unprocessed agricultural products
  - Processed agricultural products for food and feed
  - Organic wine, aquaculture also covered
- Export (up to border)
- Non-food not covered
- Food prepared in restaurants and big kitchens not covered



## Legal Framework - Proposed rules

### Promote common concept of organic production:

- Harmonisation at highest level
- Exceptions for adaptation to local conditions (flexibility)
- Mandatory EU logo or 'EU organic'
- Advertising claims
- Certification – marks of conformity
- Mutual recognition



## Legal Framework - Proposed rules

### GMOs

- Prohibition on use
- Facilitate development sector
  - No additional burden of co-existence
  - No additional monitoring, segregation measures
- No specific thresholds
- Labelled as GMO means decertified as organic



## Legal Framework - Proposed rules

### ■ Objectives:

- Protection of consumers' interest
- Development of organic production
- High level protection of environment, biodiversity and natural resources
- Respect of high animal welfare standards



## Legal Framework - Proposed rules

### Controls provisions

- Kept simple by referring to the Official Food and Feed Regulation
- Responsibilities better defined
- Reinforcement of mutual recognition



## Legal Framework - Proposed rules

### New import regime:

- In line with WTO rules
  - Access to EU market on the basis of compliance or equivalency with EU rules
- Smooth transition from the current to the new import system



# Conclusion

**The proposal at hand takes account of:**

- The lessons learnt during 15 years with Regulation 2092/91
- The importance of the dual societal role of organic production and its contribution to the CAP
- The orientations given in the EAP
- The conclusions of the Council in November 2004



European Commission  
Agriculture and Rural Development

# Conclusion

**A step forward towards  
ensuring the further development of the  
organic sector**

