



European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development



Differences and variation - organic standards database; <http://organicrules.org/>

Theme 3; What should be the rule - Rules, flexibility and regional variation.

European Joint Organic Congress, Odense, 31 Mai 2006.

Kim Holm Boesen

European Commission, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development, Unit F5 - Organic Farming



Presentation Plan

- Unit F5 and the author
- Current “derogations”
- Barriers to the free circulation
- Scientific Support to Policies - database
 - Ideal content
 - Present content
- ”Ideal” flexibility and regional variation



UnitF5 - Who are we and what do we do?

- 8 people; 5 policy officers, 1 assistant policy officers, 2 Secretaries.
- Council Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 on organic production of agricultural products and indications referring thereto on agricultural products and foodstuff, which include;
 - Management of questions/notification from EP, MS and the public.
 - Support of research.
 - CODEX and other international relation.
- Proposal for a new Council Regulation on Organic Production.
- Implementation of the European Action Plan for Organic Food and Farming (EAP).



Current derogations, exceptions, etc. in 2092/91 - ‘legislation by derogation’

- 66 “derogation” e.g.; need to be recognised by control bodies - authorisation control bodies - authorisation MS - without authorisation - MS set rules - control bodies set enforcement rules.
- Article 12, MS may set national stricter rules.
- Private standards



Art. 12 of 2092/91

- “...However, with regard to the rules referred to in Annex I, part B, concerning livestock production, Member States may apply more stringent rules to livestock and livestock products produced within their territory, provided that these rules are in compliance with Community law and do not prohibit or restrict the marketing of other livestock and livestock products that meet the requirements of this Regulation.”



Conclusion OMIaRD

- “...together with the possible conflict regarding the **standards and definitions** associated with the use of the term “organic”, are considered the most important constraints upon supply and demand in the organic food market”

(from 5th Framework for Research and Technological Development – project QLK5-2000-011224 - <http://www.irs.aber.ac.uk/omiard/>)



European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development

The “dark side” of different standards

**PUR
NATUR®**
ORGANIC **BIO** ECO

Ingédients: yogurt intero*, zucchero di canna*, aroma naturale vaniglia. * agricoltura biologica
Ingredientes: yogur entera*, caña de azúcar*, aroma natural de vainilla.
* proveniente de la agricultura ecológica
Ingredientes: iogurte inteiro or gordo*, açúcar de cana biológico*, aroma natural de baunilha.
* produto de agricultura biológica

bio Garantie
CONTROLE ECOCERT-BE-1 Skal 4236
AGRICOLTURA ECOCERT ITALIA
SOIL ASSOCIATION ORGANIC STANDARD
ORGANIC CERTIFICATION BEI
ECOCERT ITALIA
n.v. PUR NATUR s.a.
Hoogstraat 25, B-9770 Kruishoutem
www.purnatur.be

*Vanille yoghurt / Yaourt vanille / Vanilla yoghurt
Yogurt vaniglia / Yogur vainilla / Iogurte baunilha*



European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development

Scientific Support to Policies

Inline with Action 2 of European Action Plan for Organic Food and Farming:

Internet database comparing private, national and
Community standards, set up as part of the
research work package “ORGANIC
REVISION” - <http://www.organic-revision.org> -
Initial database: <http://organicrules.org>



”Ideal” content of database

- Compliance with 2092/91, e.g.
 - References
 - Within the (hidden) objectives and principles of organic production
 - Within the production rules
- Complete argumentation for different/additional rule, e.g.
 - Implementing details (detail level not covered by 2092/91)
 - National tradition/legislation
 - Topics not covered by 2092/91



Example from database

DE Bioland standards 2005: External horses on the farm

- Horses on the farm, that are not under the responsibility of the farm manager, can be fed or treated with substances that are not in line with the standards, as long as these are not contaminating the farm in any way. The horse manure will be handled as animal manure from external sources.
- **Difference;** The BIOLAND standard is more detailed and more **strict**. According to the EEC regulation conventional livestock from extensive husbandry can be kept on organic pastures for a limited period of time each year, without indicating details about the **harmlessness of feed** and **treatment** and the **handling of manure**
- **Q:** Is this I,B,1.6 or I,B,1.7 or a mix + more strict?



Example from database

V SP CCPAE Catalunya 2002: Standard for organic horses.

- **Summary;** Article 11.06 of General CCPAE standards, pages 154-158 - The main points of this Horse Standards are: origin of the animals, conversion period, management, suckling and breeding of small horses; animal welfare, free ranch areas and facilities for breeding horses, animal feeding, animal health and animal identification.
- **Difference:** Organic horse breeding is not regulated in the EEC Regulation 2092/91. – Justification: To provide **strict** rules for any significant type of agricultural / food production.
- **Q:** Equines is not a part of 2092/91? – Details?



“Ideal” flexibility and regional variation

- Production confronted with climatic, geographical or structural constraints.
- Early stages of development of organic production.
- Transitional measures when new legislation comes into force.
- Where inputs are not commercially available in organic form.
- Solve specific problems related to the management of organic production.
- Temporary measurements in the case of catastrophic circumstances.
- Restrictions and obligations related to the protection of human and animal health on the basis of Community legislation.



”Ideal” flexibility and regional variation 2

- Common permanent rules
- Common permanent but exceptional rules; or if not possible,
- Guidelines (Community level)
 - Member States set local parameters
 - Transparency for operators and control bodies



Simpler, clearer and more transparent

Council Regulation on organic farming (reforming Regulation 2092/91) adopted by the Commission on 21 December 2005;

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2005/com2005_0671en01.pdf



European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development

Acknowledgments

- **Ms Isabelle Peutz, Ir, DVM, Head of Unit F5-
Organic Farming for the part of the
presentation on Implementation Rules.**
- **“ORGANIC REVISION”- for inviting me.**