



The end of the European Organic Label?

Tuesday 21 November 2017
08:00-10:00
Room JAN6Q1
European Parliament, Brussels

Co-hosted by:

Angélique Delahaye MEP

Chair of the “*Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services*” working group of the EP Intergroup on “*Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Sustainable Development*”

Marc Tarabella MEP

Member of the EP Committee on “*Agriculture and Rural Development*”

PROGRAMME

The demand for organic products on the European market is growing exponentially and at a much higher rate than the conversion to organic agriculture and the financial support provided to this emerging sector. To meet this demand, European importers rely on organic products from third countries. This way, with the idea of facilitating imports, the European Union has consented to setting up an “equivalence” system in its regulation.

However, certain agricultural products introduced on the EU market under this scheme could amount to “fake organic” as unauthorized plant protection products, which are not even allowed in conventional European agriculture, are used in some exporting countries.

This system puts the entire sector, the European producers, and the 500 million European consumers at great risk: a distortion of competition for European producers, a loss of confidence in the EU organic label among consumers who will switch to conventional local products, and thus the end of the EU Organic Label. How can this be avoided?

The aim of this conference is therefore to highlight the risks posed by the equivalence system and to suggest ideas for reflection on the future of the European organic label.



INTERPRETATION ENGLISH-FRENCH-SPANISH

- 07:30-07:50** **Registration- Ex-INFO-POINT, Place du Luxembourg**
- 08:00-08:10** Welcome and introduction by MEPs Angélique Delahaye and Marc Tarabella
- 08:10-08:20** Collective for Compliance - Fanny Lardier, Deputy Director, FELCOOP
Equivalence vs. Compliance for imports: what are the dangers?
- 08:20-08:30** Etienne Gangneron, FNSEA
Equivalence: unfair competition for European producers
- 08:30-08:40** Joseph Owona Kono, President, AFRUIBANA
Compliance: the only option for quality production
- 08:40-08:50** Marc Fichers, Secretary General, Nature & Progrès Belgium
And consumers in all of this?
- 08:50-09:00** **Questions and answers with the audience**
- 09:00-09:50** **Roundtable discussion: *Compliance: the only acceptable system for the European organic label***
- Members of the European Parliament
 - Nicolas Verlet, Head of unit “Organics”, DG AGRI, European Commission
 - Philippe Ruelle, Director General, UGPBAN
 - Etienne Gangneron, FNSEA
 - Joseph Owona Kono, President, AFRUIBANA
 - Fanny Lardier, Deputy Director, FELCOOP
- Questions and discussion with the audience**
- 09:50-10:00** Concluding remarks by MEPs Angélique Delahaye and Marc Tarabella
- 10:00-10:30** Press Conference