

---

## Action 20: International standards and capacity building

### What is the content?

Establish a systematic comparison between the European Community standard on organic farming, the Codex Alimentarius Guidelines and the IFOAM standards (see also Action 2). Step up efforts towards global harmonisation and development of a multilateral concept of equivalency based on the Codex Alimentarius Guidelines in co-operation with Member States, third countries and the private sector.

Support capacity building in developing countries under the development policy of the EU by facilitating information on the possibilities offered by more general support instruments to be used in favour of organic agriculture.

Further measures to facilitate trade in organic products from developing countries will be considered.

According to article 12 in the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, members shall provide differential and more favourable treatment to developing country members to this agreement.

### What has been done? What was achieved?

DG Agriculture and Rural Development are involved in a task force for harmonisation, which FAO, IFOAM and UNCTAD have established.

In the project "Organic Revision" a comparison was made between the EU Regulation and other standards like the IFOAM Basic Standards and Codex Alimentarius Guidelines. A public report will be available End of July 2007 (see [www.organic-revision.org](http://www.organic-revision.org) and the database site [www.organicrules.org](http://www.organicrules.org)).

The new Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 mentions that the Codex Alimentarius Guidelines should be taken into account.

### What is planned? What is on the way?

Details still have still to be clarified in the implementation rules – a Commission consultation document was circulated in autumn 2007.

### Disclaimer

The views expressed in this publication are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission and in no way anticipate the Commission's future policy in this area. The information contained herein, including any expression of opinion and any projection or forecast, has been obtained from sources believed by the authors to be reliable but is not guaranteed as to accuracy or completeness.

Should the publication of corrigenda becomes necessary, there will be posted at the project website [www.organic-revision.org](http://www.organic-revision.org).

ORGAP Project

Scientific Coordinator: Otto Schmid, FiBL

Administrative Coordinator: Bettina Landau, FiBL

Date: 17 July 2007, updated April 2008 (by Nic Lampkin, UWA, including comments from EU Commission)