
Action 9: Maintaining the deadlines for the derogations

What is the content?

Ensure the integrity of organic agriculture by reinforcing the standards and maintaining the foreseen end dates of the transitional periods.

What has been done? What was achieved?

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 should give more flexibility for regional derogations.

Several deadlines were or are addressed in the current work of the Standing Committee for Organic Food and Farming, e.g. feeding (adaptation of the feed regime) or tethering (on-going).

What is planned? What is on the way?

The European Commission has addressed the derogations in the new implementation rules, which supplements the Council Regulation 834/2007 with detailed production rules (NIROF). SCOF gave favourable opinion to NIROF on 2.7.2008.

The main achievements are:

- derogations of Regulation (EEC) 2092/91 are transposed into permanent production rules, some others are transferred under the flexibility rules (article 22 of Council regulation 834/2007) as to keep them few in numbers, most of them need authorisation by competent authority of MS (before control body);
- exceptional rule for tethering in small holdings, only permitted with additional condition of using pasture in summer;
- transitional rules for certain livestock housing and husbandry expire 2010 unless individual authorisations are given until 2013 and with double control frequency; justification: MS report on the further use of these derogations and link to running period of rural development programmes;
- deadline for 100% organic feed for herbivores is kept, but under discussion because of non-availability of organic cereals for feed.

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Should the publication of corrigenda becomes necessary, there will be posted at the project website www.organic-revision.org.

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