

European Organic Congress on climate change, biodiversity and global food crisis

Brussels, 16/07/2009 – Chances and challenges for organic farming in times of climate change, biodiversity loss and global food crisis is the focus of the Second European Organic Congress (1) to be held in Brussels on December 1, 2009. The congress is organised by IFOAM EU Group (2) which also initiated and held, back in December 2007, the European Organic Congress on the future of organic food and farming within the reformed CAP.

The December 1 forum will provide an opportunity for the organic sector and different stakeholders from all over Europe to discuss current challenges and the contributions the organic food system offers to face them. It is expected to bring together high level representatives from the EU institutions and about 200 participants representing organic farming associations, the organic processing and retailing business and other interested people and organisations from the EU Member States and beyond.

The Second European Organic Congress will analyse the potential of organic production to face major challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss and global food crisis. Participants will discuss the further development of the CAP after 2013 and the role of the organic food system as the leading concept for sustainable food production. It will also look into necessary policy changes in agriculture policies, redirecting research funds and priorities, and will highlight the innovations produced by organic farming in low carbon practices.

The IFOAM EU Group invites all interested stakeholders to the Congress and is seeking cooperation with organic sector operators, farmers and food sector organisations as well as environmental and consumer organisations and trade unions. Further information, detailed programme and possibility to register for the event will be available from mid-August through the Congress website www.organic-congress-ifoameu.org.

End (characters 1977)

More information:

IFOAM EU Group, phone + 32-2-280 12 23, Fax: +32-2-735 73 81,
info@ifoam-eu.org, www.organic-congress-ifoameu.org, www.ifoam-eu.org

Notes

(1) The Congress *Organic Farming in times of Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss and Global Food Crisis* will be held in Brussels, December 1, 2009, at the representation of Baden-Württemberg, Rue Belliard 60-62. It is co-financed by the European Community, Directorate-General for Environment. The sole



Press Release

International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements – EU Regional Group

responsibility for all communications/publications and content in relation with this event lies with the organiser. The Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

(2) The IFOAM EU Group represents the 300 member organisations of IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) in the EU-27, the EU accession countries and EFTA. Member organisations include: consumer, farmer and processor associations; research, education and advisory organisations; certification bodies and commercial organic companies.