

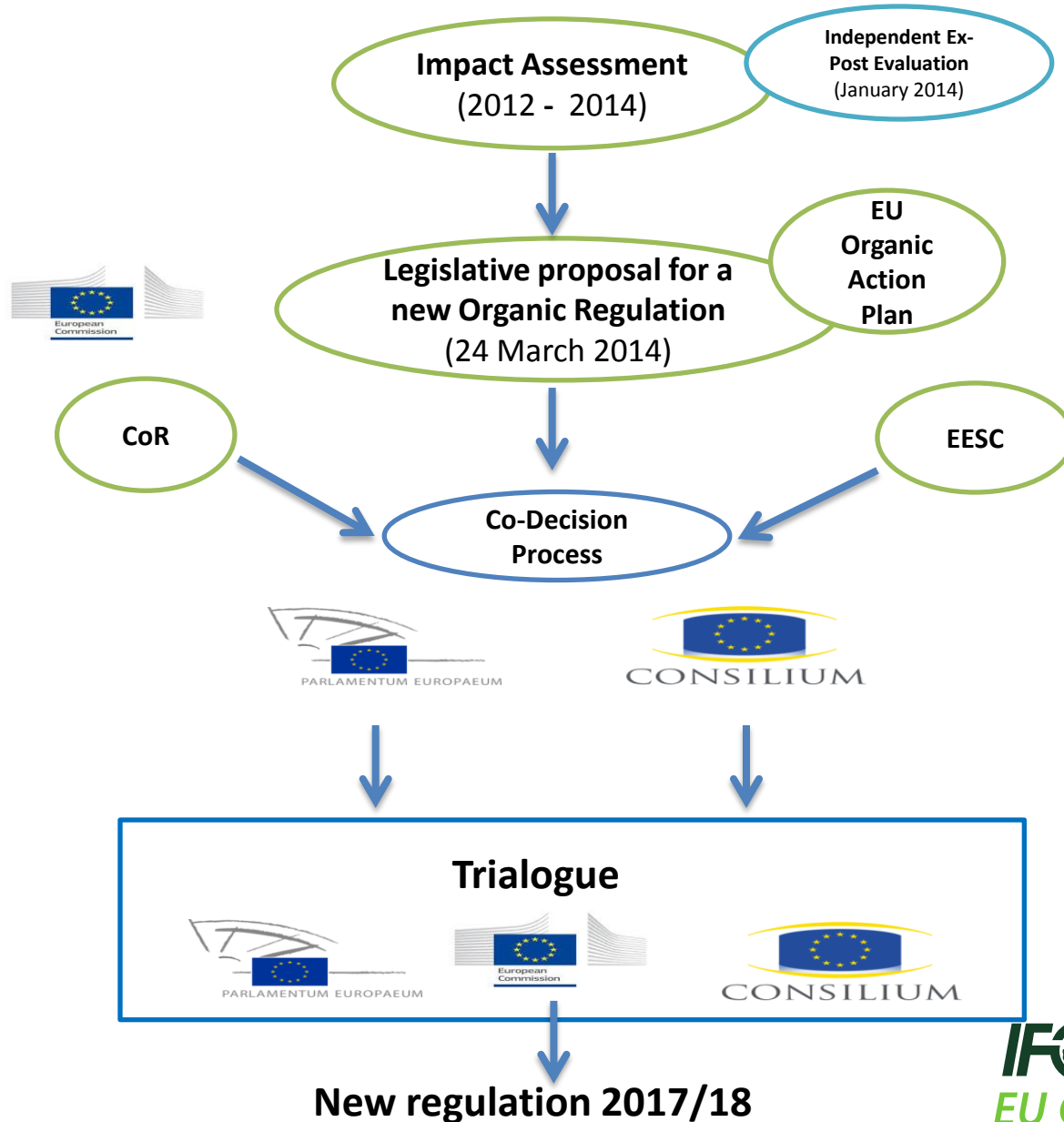
New EU Organic Regulation

Bologna

14 September 2015

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The Process



State of play of the organic regulation review

Council of the EU

- During the Agrifish Council meeting of the 16 June 2015 the Ministers of Agriculture adopted an agreement on the Commission proposal
- Next presidencies: Luxembourg and Netherland

European Parliament

- Com Agri meeting May 26, 2015 Martin Häusling (Green MEP, rapporteur) has presented his report
- Other political groups have tabled amendments until June 22, 2015
- Totally around 1450 amendments
- Vote planned for October 2015

Trilogue

- It will start when the EP will find an agreement

IFOAM EU Position

- IFOAM EU rejected the initial COM proposal
- Major concerns:
 - Control system moved out
 - Import system shift toward compliance
 - Immediate end of the critical derogations (seed; mixed farms; non-organic animals...)
 - Decertification threshold for non-authorized substances
 - Technical mistakes and inconsistencies



Control system

- **Commission proposal** – Extending the control activities on all the food chain, retailers included
- Focusing on risk assessment by abandoning the annual inspection concept
- **Council of the EU** – Mandatory annual inspection with derogation for low risk operators which would allow a maximum 30-month period between two inspections
- **European Parliament** – In the draft reports controls are based on a risk assessment but - as minimum - an annual inspection has to be carried out.



Import regime

- **Commission proposal** – phase out of the principle of equivalence for control bodies in international trade, to replace it by the principle of compliance (exempting trade agreements)
- **Council of the EU** – The Council has kept the Commission approach on compliance for control bodies with almost no equivalence
- **European Parliament** – The Rapporteur proposes a three-level system based on: 1) bilateral equivalency agreements, 2) recognition of already existing regional standards in third countries , and 3) application of EU standards with some exceptions



Derogations

- **Commission proposal** – **Transitional rule until 2021:** non-organic seeds & propagating material; Introduction of non-organic animals for breeding purpose; Young aquaculture stock
- **Deleted exceptional rules:** Sourcing of young animals in poultry production; Use of a small percentage (5%) of non-organic protein feed; Mixed production ; As for bee-keeping , management of organic and non-organic units on the same holding and use of non-organic beeswax
- **Council of the EU** – Reintroduce derogations: Mixed farms; non-organic seed; non-organic animals; non-organic feed...
- **European Parliament** – Draft report does not keep the possibility of mixed farm



New proposals from the European Parliament

- The establishment of a new **EU Organic Agency** dealing with control, import and implementation issues
- Definitions, production rules and labelling proposed for **organic breeding**. It means how to obtain organically seeds and reproductive material to be used in organic production.
- The Rapporteur proposes EU production rules for **organic rabbits**.
- Many amendments on **animal welfare** coming from many MEPs on transportation, slaughtering, castrations, use of the right breed etc.



Thresholds for non-allowed substances and products

- **Commission proposal** – The establishment of a decertification threshold for non-allowed substances. Reference to the baby food directive which sets 0.01 ppm as threshold
- **Council Agreement** – Phase out of any threshold. Only MS that establish a legal threshold by 2015 can continue apply it until 31 Dec. 2020.
- **European Parliament** – Häusling's amendments delete the establishment of a de-certification threshold and proposed:
 - measures on how to deal with all kind of suspected or found non-compliances.
 - establish a system of compensation for organic farmers polluted by conventional agriculture.



What could be the main changes?

- There might be a de-certification threshold for non allowed substances
- The possibility to use **non-organic seed** could be limited
- The possibility to have **mixed farm** might be phased out or limited
- The use of 5 % of **non-organic protein** feed might be phased out
- **90%** of feed for herbivores and **60%** of feed for non-herbivores, might have to come from the same farm or region. (today it is 60% and 20%)
- The **group certification** could be allowed in the EU
- Importing from third countries under the **equivalence** regime for control bodies might be phased out



THANK YOU !

