Organic farming and production in Poland

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EESC hearing on "The future of organic production in Europe"
Better support scheme, to increase the share of organic farming in all Member States.

Source: European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development
Organic farming in Poland (2013)

- 26 598 farms (1.7%)
- 675 000 ha – total area (4% of UAA)
- 407 – processing and marketing companies
Market of organic food in Poland

21,5 bln Euro - Europe
19,7 bln Euro - EU
6,6 bln Euro - Germany
3,7 bln Euro - France
1,8 bln Euro - United Kingdom

120-150 mil. Euro – value of the market

Source: Portal spożywczy za Agencją Inquiry

Position statement of Polish member organisations of IFOAM EU Group

The proposal of the regulation in the form and content presented on 23 April 2014 is not possible to accept.

Following aspects were ignored:

- different level of development of organic farming in different Member States,
- few hundreds years tradition of rural life style connected with a production of small quantities of fruits and vegetables. The ban of conventional and organic production on the same farm or obligation to convert that part into organic, could cause exclusion from the certification system at least many hundreds of farms
Different level of development of organic farming in different Member States

in the situation of lack on the market of:

- organic seed, especially of vegetables, as well as vegetative propagating material,
- organic animals,
- organic protein feed,

can cause the break down of organic production on local level.

In the consequences - the consumer demand on organic products will be covered by the supply form abroad, which contradicts to the idea of organic production as the method of production of high quality by the care on environment on local level.
The ban of conventional and organic production on the same farm or obligation to convert that part into organic, could cause exclusion from the certification system at least many hundreds of farms. Many of that farms produces organic fruits for the market, and the conventional part is for own use or for other markets as willow or tobacco.
other issues creating problems:

- pesticide residues threshold: no official laboratories, variable results of testing, high costs for small farmers and producers,

- no possibility for comparison research: entire research farm must be organic,

- certification of retailers: administrative burdens, high costs, small shops and big shops selling only few products will stop to sell organic products,
We hope that conventional cow can survive under the new regulation in organic orchard!

Thank you for your attention