Basic information

1996/0205(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	Procedure completed
Livestock production: organic production of agricultural products, indication on foodstuffs (Regul. 2092/91/EEC) See also 1999/2511(RSP) **Subject** 3.10.05 Livestock products, in general	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	MAYER Christine (ARE)	03/09/1996

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	GEBHARDT Evelyne (PSE)	19/12/1996
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	TAMINO Gianni (V)	25/09/1996

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Agriculture and Fisheries	2151	1998-12-14
Agriculture and Fisheries	2190	1999-06-14
Agriculture and Fisheries	2199	1999-07-19

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
26/07/1996	Legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0366	Summary
16/09/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
22/04/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
22/04/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0156/1997	
13/05/1997	Debate in Parliament		Summary

09/01/1998	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1997)0747	Summary
14/12/1998	Debate in Council		
19/07/1999	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
19/07/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
24/08/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1996/0205(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Amendments and repeals	See also 1999/2511(RSP)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 037
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AGRI/4/08230

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0156/1997 OJ C 167 02.06.1997, p. 0003	22/04/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0230/1997 OJ C 167 02.06.1997, p. 0045-0055	14/05/1997	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1996)0366 OJ C 293 05.10.1996, p. 0023	26/07/1996	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1997)0747 OJ C 061 26.02.1998, p. 0006	09/01/1998	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2007)0083	06/03/2007	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary

EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0234/1997 OJ C 133 28.04.1997, p. 0029	26/02/1997	Summary

Additional information		
Source	**Document**	**Date**
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act	
Regulation 1999/1804 OJ L 222 24.08.1999, p. 0001	Summary

Livestock production: organic production of agricultural products, indication on foodstuffs (Regul. 2092/91/EEC)

1996/0205(CNS) - 09/01/1998 - Modified legislative proposal

The proposal fully or partially incorporates 64 amendments adopted by Parliament at first reading. In particular the Commission accepted the amendments aiming for a general prohibition of the use of genetically modified organisms and products derived therefrom in the production and processing of organic products. This was in line with the views the Commission received on this question from most of the Member States as well as from the directly concerned professional organizations.

Livestock production: organic production of agricultural products, indication on foodstuffs (Regul. 2092/91/EEC)

1996/0205(CNS) - 19/07/1999 - Final act

PURPOSE : to supplement Regulation 2092/91/EEC by establishing rules on organic production and agricultural products and indications referring thereto on agricultural products on foodstuffs to include livestock production. COMMUNITY MEASURE : Council Regulation 1804/1999/EC supplementing Regulation 2092/91/EEC on organic production of agricultural products and indications referring thereto on agricultural products and foodstuffs to include livestock production. CONTENTS : this Regulation lays down harmonised rules (production, labelling and inspection) in the sector which take account of the increasing growth in the interests of producers and consumers alike. It aims to eliminate the sources of uncertainty both for existing producers and for those who are starting this activity, as well as the problems which hamper the free movement of goods. In order to maintain consumers' confidence in organic production, genetically modified foods and products derived from these organisms must not be used in products which are labelled as being organically produced. Moreover, livestock production is fundamental to the organisation of agricultural production on organic-production holdings insofar as it provides the necessary organic matter and nutrients for cultivated land and accordingly contributes towards soil improvement and the development of sustainable agriculture. ENTRY INTO FORCE : this Regulation will apply from the 24/08/2001, with the exception of the ban on using genetically modified organisms which will applies with immediate effect.

Livestock production: organic production of agricultural products, indication on foodstuffs (Regul. 2092/91/EEC)

1996/0205(CNS) - 26/02/1997 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

Whilst the Committee welcomes the Commission proposal to frame common rules on organic animal production, it nevertheless feels that the rules are too general and imprecise, and as such, are likely to weaken the legal impact of the regulation. It therefore suggests that the regulation and its annexes should confine themselves to establishing clearly-defined minimum requirements for organic production. Attention should also be paid to the large regional variations within the EU regarding natural conditions and climate, and national exceptions should be allowed as long as they do not lead to distortion of competition. Organic production is growing, following an increase in demand. The Committee therefore feels it is necessary to boost consumer confidence and ensure that all citizens have access to reasonably-priced organic fare.

Livestock production: organic production of agricultural products, indication on foodstuffs (Regul. 2092/91/EEC)

1996/0205(CNS) - 26/07/1996 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: the object of the proposal is to supplement Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 by laying down harmonized rules on organic production of agricultural products and special provisions specific to livestock production as regards inspection. SUBSTANCE: the proposal lays down general principles for organic livestock farming, covering: - recognition of the interdependence between stock farming the soil with a view to ensuring responsible management of effluents and favouring feed produced on the holding; - consideration for the welfare of the livestock, in particular by eschewing systematic mutilation and eliminating stress during transport and slaughter; - choice of breeds which are adapted to local conditions, search for biological diversity, and the use of natural service; - obligation to manage the whole livestock production unit in accordance with the principles of organic production. The proposal also lays down specific rules for the various types of stock farming concerning: - the origin of the animals, - the rules for conversion from conventional to organic stock farming, - animal feed, - animal-health treatment and care, - animal housing and living environment. Finally, it lays down special provisions specific to livestock production as regards inspection (livestock records).

Livestock production: organic production of agricultural products, indication on foodstuffs (Regul. 2092/91/EEC)

1996/0205(CNS) - 06/03/2007 - Follow-up document

According to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 on organic production of agricultural products, the

Commission must prepare a reportto Council on the implementation of several derogations for organic livestock, namely:

- tethering of cattle in buildings from before 24 August 2000;
- different livestock housing requirements in buildings from before 24 August 1999, namely on access of waterfowls to swimming water, on poultry housing conditions, flock sizes and access to outdoor area of poultry as well as on access to open-air runs and pasture for mammals and on the size of indoor and outdoor space of housing.

These derogations are to run out on 31 December 2010. There is no legal requirement for a revision before that date.

In order to obtain data for the preparation of this report, all Member States and several European non-Member Stateswere asked to complete two questionnaires. 20 Member States as well as Bulgaria, Norway and Switzerland responded to one or both of the questionnaires.

Tethering of cattle: quite a number of Member States find the phasing out of the derogation allowing the tethering of cattle by 31 December 2010, problematic and demand a prolongation of at least five years. Mainly climatic (regions with long winter housing), geographical, structural and economic arguments have been put forward. The detrimental effects noticed in tethering systems include:claw and leg health problems (lack of exercise);problems with calving; cattle become too wild after release from tethering. The positive effects of tethering systems include: no dehorning;less stress for lower ranking animals (no competition for feed, resting place etc.);more intensive observation, allowing for preventive action; and less claw problems.

Arguments used for prolongation requests include:

a) geographic constraints:

- mountain areas;

- lack of straw in mountains;

b) structural constraints:

- lack of additional land and/or placed inside villages;

- landscape preservation;

- more time for new Member States to ensure development.

c) economic constraints:

- redemption period for the investment in the stable;

- rural development programs 2007–2013 (5 year commitment needed, farmers might discontinue organic farming without derogations);

- poorly developed markets lead to reduced possibilities to valorise organic meat and thus invest in stables;

- small farms not profitable to rebuild/invest.

France wants unlimited prolongation for tethering for a maximum of 6 months per year also in new buildings, under certain conditions regarding access to exercise area. Portugal opposes any further derogation.

Other derogations: despite their currently widespread use, few Member States require prolongations of the derogations on access of waterfowls to swimming water, on poultry housing conditions, flock sizes and access to outdoor area of poultry. Various Member States demand a prolongation of the derogations on access to open-air runs and pasture for mammals as well as on the size of indoor and outdoor space. It was argued that more time was needed for new Member States as it is the farms with old stables converting. In addition, for rural development programs 2007–2013, a 5 year commitment was needed, and farmers might discontinue organic farming without derogations.

Livestock production: organic production of agricultural products, indication on foodstuffs (Regul. 2092/91/EEC)

1996/0205(CNS) - 14/05/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs Marie-Christine BARTHET-MAYER (ARE, F), the European Parliament endorsed the Commission's proposals on the monitoring of the quality of the organic production of agricultural foodstuffs. The report emphasizes the need to encourage sustainable agriculture, based on a land-plant-livestock balance, preserving biodiversity, ensuring high quality and increasingly using renewable energies. It calls for the regulation to enable the Member States to apply specific rules that take account of the particular features of their agricultural sector. On the other hand, it proposes that various modifications or additions should be made, especially as regards the following aspects: - greater opportunities for monitoring products and increased independence and powers for the monitoring bodies; - improvement of labelling: presentation by the Commission, by 1 January 1998, of a European logo linked to the monitoring carried out by an inspection authority accredited by an independent organization; - prohibition of the use of GMOs (genetically modified organisms) and of viral live vaccines in organic agriculture; - prevention of distortions of competition that might occur among the Member States.