



European
Commission

"The future Organic Regulation"



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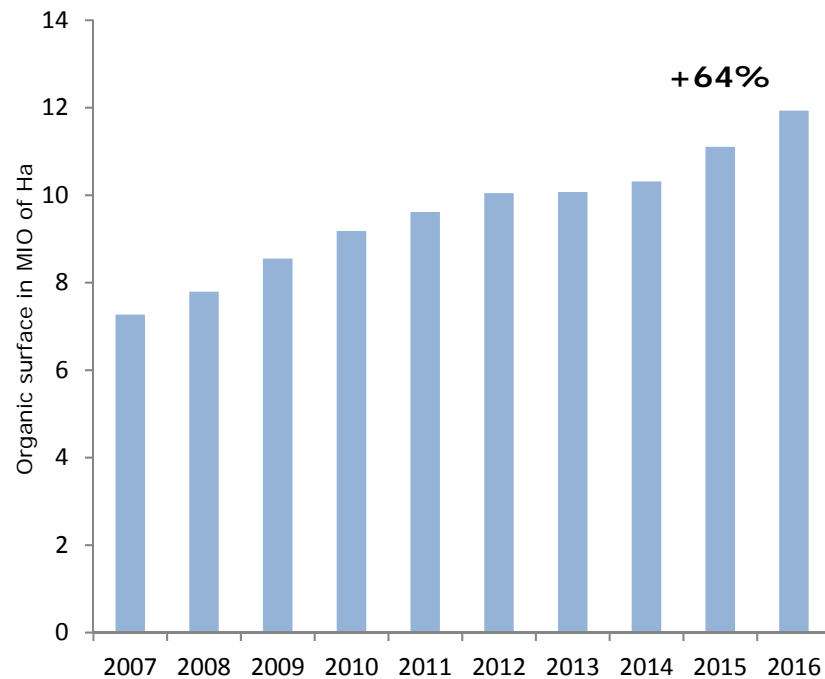
Agriculture
and Rural
Development

The organic reform: a bit of history

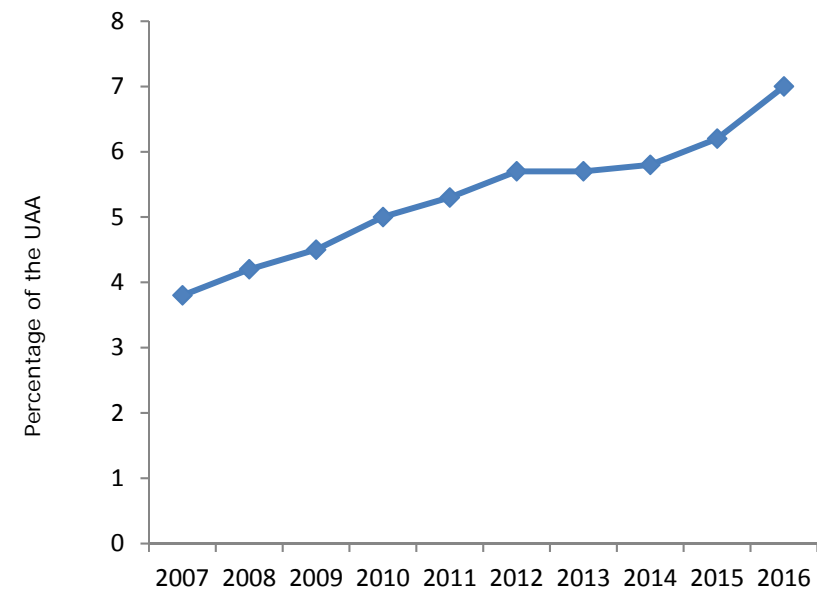
- *Commission Proposal 2014*
- *Discussion with the Council and the European Parliament started in Nov 2015 and ended in June 2017*
- *Published in June 2018.*
- *Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing council regulation 834/2007*
- *Entry into application: January 2021*

Why a reform? Surface growth

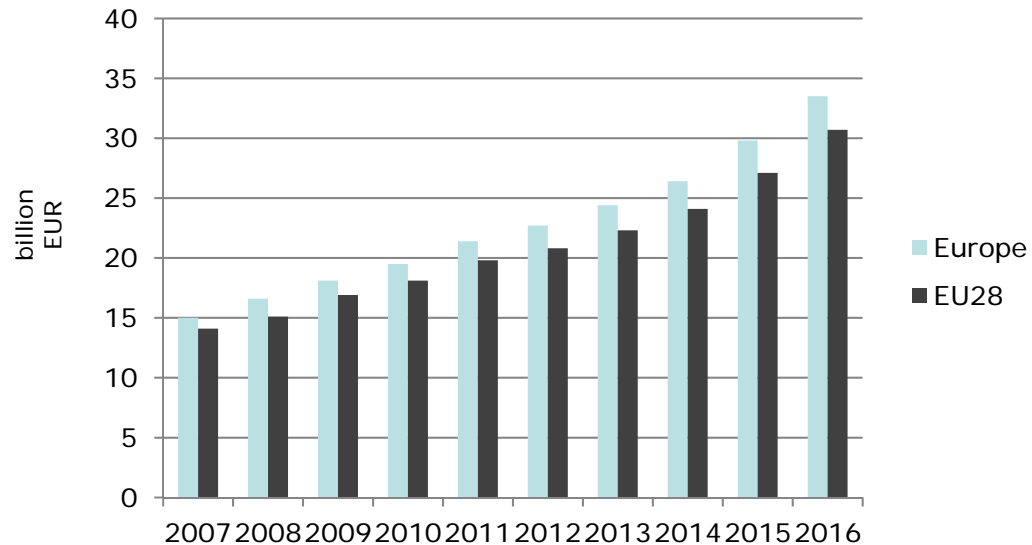
Increase of surfaces in the last decade of more than 60% all over the EU



Increasing relevance in terms of UAA in the last decade to reach almost 7% of the total Utilised Agricultural Area



Why a reform? Market growth



Considerable increase in market value both in the EU and in Europe. The value more than doubled in the last decade to set at more than 30 MIO euro



Why a new regulation?

- *Certain provisions are 20 years old, did not foresee the incredible development of the organic sector.*
- *Many gray areas; growing number of requests for the legal interpretations of certain provisions.*
- *Too many derogations granted on a case-by-case basis; too many discrepancies on the application of the rules between Member States.*
- *Increasing risk of formal complaints being introduced by some operators against unfair competition.*
- *Current regulation not in line with the Lisbon treaty.*

Why the reform took so long ?

- *Wide varieties of views and positions between the three European Institutions, Member States and within the sector.*
- *Several issues on which it was difficult to find an acceptable compromise for all parties: pesticides, controls, cultivation in greenhouses using demarcated beds.*
- *Final outcome: balanced compromise between fundamental principles of organic production maintaining certain flexibility for operators.*

Added value of the new Organic Regulation

Harmonisation:

- *end of à la carte derogations;*
- *level playing field for organic producer, within the EU and vis-à-vis third countries (compliance);*

Simplification:

- *group certification for small producers reducing certification costs and administrative burden;*
- *risk based controls aiming to reduce administrative burden.*



Moreover...

Clarification:

- *end of grey area in the control system;*
- *a robust control system with clearer rules;*
- *definitions.*



Production rules: plants

- *Harmonisation of certain provision: i.e. parallel farming, authorisation of substances.*
- *Organic heterogeneous material (higher genetic variability for a better adaptation to different agronomic realities)*
- *Clarification of the status of greenhouses and the fundamental principle of link to the soil. Transitional period for certain Countries.*
- *Enhance the use of organic seeds: creation of a database.*



Seeds: Article 13

Organic heterogeneous material: Plant reproductive material that does not belong to a variety but rather to a plant grouping with a single botanical taxon with a high level of genetic and phenotypic diversity between individual reproductive units.



Production rules: livestock

- *Simplification of the rules on livestock production: for instance simultaneous conversion (land + animals)*
- *Definition of poultry houses*
- *Introduction of the concept of verandas in poultry for sanitary reasons*
- *New specific rules for ducks, turkey, ostrich (in the secondary legislation).*
- *New rules for rabbits and cervine animals (in the secondary legislation).*
- *New rules for insects (in the secondary legislation).*



Production rules: plants

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- *Introduction of new products and possibility to extend the scope to new products.*





Unauthorised products and substances

- *The fundamental principles remain the same: the use of non-authorised products and substances is prohibited.*
- *Towards a more harmonized approach: proportionate and appropriate precautionary measures under the control of organic farmers to minimize the risk of accidental contamination.*
- *It defines the approach to be followed by the competent authorities when they receive information that raises suspicion of presence of non authorised pesticides.*



- *MS with a threshold system will be able to keep it, provided the Internal Market is not affected.*
- *Report on unauthorised substances including the assessment of the national provisions and the precautionary measures taken by operators.*
- *Harmonised rules will be set for the determination and the evaluation of non authorised substances*



Control rules

- *Organic farming is explicitly part of the scope of the new EU Official Food and Feed Control Regulation.*
- *Principle of the annual control maintained: still possibility for MS to define a risk profile to possibly exempt operators from on the physical on-the-spot .*
- *Group certification for small operators.*
- *Provision for control on retailers for prepacked and unpacked products under certain conditions .*



Processing

- *Clarification on the enrichment of baby food rules.*
- *New provisions on the authorisation of non-organic ingredients of agricultural origin.*



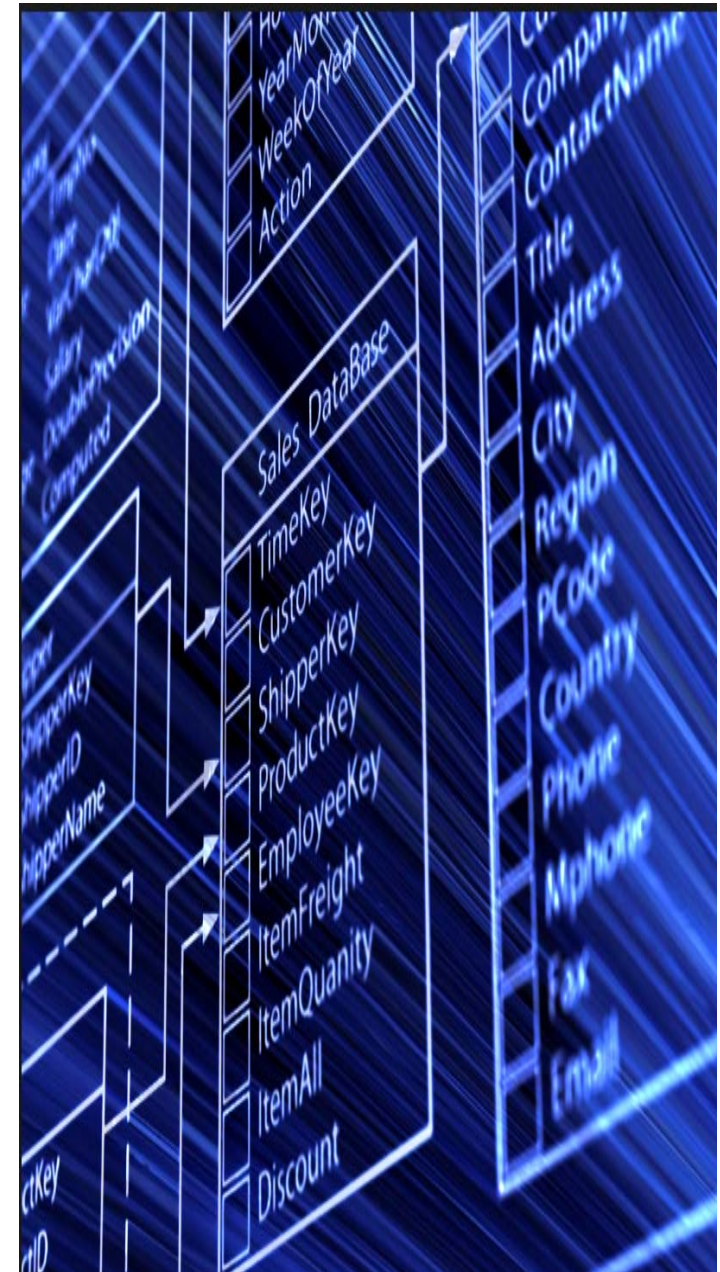
Database and end of derogations

*MS to set up a data base for seeds
and a "system" for livestock.*

*Opportunity to create a market of
organic reproductive material.*

Voluntary "system" for landraces

*Possibility for the Commission for
extending the duration of derogations*



Trade

- *Provisions for the exports of organic products*
- *From equivalence to compliance, specific provision for substances due to different climatic conditions. Transition period of three years.*
- *Reinforced powers in relation to CB and goods, enhanced possibility to intervene when suspected or established noncompliance.*
- *Current arrangements will expire in 2025 => bilateral international agreements.*



Secondary legislation:

- *Many of the provisions laid down in the current regulation will be further detailed in the secondary implementing legislation.*
- *All the legislation will be submitted to the WTO-TBT committee.*
- *The secondary legislation shall be ready by mid of 2020 to allow an adaptation period in particular for investments*





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