



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOVEMENTS



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Austrian Presidency

Bundesministerin Maria Rauch-Kallat
Bundesministerium für Gesundheit und Frauen
Radetzkystrasse 2
A-1030 Wien

Bundesminister Josef Pröll
Lebensministerium
Stubenring 1
1012 Wien

27.02.2006

**Proposal for a Council Regulation on organic production and labeling of organic products
- as of December 21st 2005**

Dear minister Rauch-Kallat, dear minister Pröll,

We have learned that the Austrian Presidency intends to finalize the revision of Regulation (EEC) no. 2092/91 by approval of the Council by the end of June.

We request that the current timetable for revision is changed. The Commission should be given the opportunity to present better content, a complete picture and a process for stakeholder involvement. Please see major concerns outlined in the attached annex. Unless crucial issues are reformulated and unclear areas are clarified, we must ask for withdrawal of the complete proposal.

We trust that you will take our deep concern into consideration and count on the Austrian Presidency to act in the interest of the development of Organic Agriculture. We hereby request a personal meeting with you as Presidency to discuss an alternative way forward.

Sincerely

Gerald A. Herrmann
President of IFOAM

Francis Blake
President of IFOAM EU Group

cc Council members, standing group on organic farming and EU commission (DG Agriculture)