

## ■ table of contents...

### Updates and reports

Organic organisations criticise revised draft of the EU Regulation ..... 1

### Leader

What about some transparency? ..... 2

### Country focus

Organic Poland is developing ..... 3

### Standards and regulations

Coexistence ..... 5

Equalising export rules in China ..... 9

### Updates and reports

Bolivia sets up organic development ..... 11

Belgium seed regulation ..... 11

Complaints against new NOSB appointments ..... 12

FLO moves towards generic requirements ..... 14

Delivering fairtrade opportunities ..... 14

EU organic wine standards ..... 15

Compensation fund catches on in the EU ..... 15

Ruling on GMO moratorium .... 16

International forum for certification bodies established ..... 17

SAN published 2005 version of standards ..... 18

First ever international conference on organic livestock ..... 18

## Organic organisations criticise revised draft of the EU Regulation

From a generally positive statement published earlier [see TOS issue no. 57], the IFOAM EU group now declares the European Commission's organic regulation revision draft proposal as gravely inadequate. The declaration issued by the Group's third General Assembly held on 15 February 2006, called on the EU Council and the Commission to rectify the situation, highlighting that the extremely tight timescale and insufficient participation of stakeholders in the revision process could result in serious damage to European organic food and farming prospects in the future.

The IFOAM EU group's statement was echoed a few days later by the European Organic Certifiers Council (EOCC) after their meeting on 18 February. The EOCC urged its member organisations, to petition the European Commission Agriculture and Rural Development Directorate-General Unit F5 with the following message:

*'The EOCC (European Organic Certifiers Council) has grave concern over the process of development of the draft regulation, because we believe that the timescale for consultation on this draft is too tight.*

*There has been:*

- *Insufficient stakeholder participation in the process.*
- *Lack of acknowledgement of the experience of certifiers.*

*Therefore the EOCC cannot support the present proposal for a council regulation on organic production and labelling of organic products.'*

Meanwhile, KRAV, the leading Swedish private certification body circulated a 28 page response detailing its concerns and reservations of the draft proposal saying, 'If it is enforced, it will be the death knell for the development of organic production and processing and consumption in Europe.'

KRAV accused the Commission in general of choosing to repress instead of foster collaboration within the growing organic market. Key concerns highlighted include confiscation of the value of private labelling and removing the possibility to market products with less than 95% organic raw materials. KRAV noted, if the proposal is adopted, private labels will be forced to approve products even if they do not fulfil their respective private standards. KRAV believes raising the threshold to add value will hamstring, instead of encourage more processed products to enter the system.

KRAV noted certain improvements in the revised draft. These include opportunities for risk-based inspections, the possibility for regional flexibility

*continued bottom next page*