

# European Agenda Event Report

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## Organic Innovations for Sustainable Food Production

DECEMBER 02 2008, LAUNCH OF TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM FOR ORGANIC FOOD AND FARMING, PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

EU and global agriculture face major challenges, such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, food security and depopulation of rural areas. In the belief that organic farming is an important part of the solution to these challenges, upon the initiative of IFOAM EU Group and ISOFAR, thirty (so far) organisations from the organic food and farming sector and the civil society formed the research Technology Platform 'Organics'. TP Organics is to advocate for more EU and national funding in the area of organic research – as a means of developing sustainable solutions.

TP Organics was launched on December 02 with a public presentation at the permanent representation of the Czech Republic (soon to take up the EU Presidency) in Brussels. In an opening address, the Vice Minister of the Czech Ministry of Agriculture, Jiri Urban, expressed the support of his ministry for the Platform. The presentation, followed by a press conference, was attended by EU officials (among whom were Timothy Hall, Director Biotechnologies, Agriculture and Food in DG Research; Ladislav Miko, Director Nature Protection, DG Environment; Friedrich Wilhelm Graefe zu Baringdorf, Vice Chairman of Agriculture Committee, European Parliament) and representatives of organisations such



as the European Environmental Bureau, the European Federation of Trade Unions in the Food, Agriculture and Tourism, The European Young Farmers, EuroCoop and others.

“Civil society wants to be involved in research policy, because the budgets and priori-

ties set for research today largely define how society will look like in twenty years”, said Eric Gall from the Fondation Sciences Citoyennes, one of the founding organisations. Marco Schlüter, director of the IFOAM EU Group, expressed another shared between the Platform partners opinion: “EU should lose no time and use the tool of the 7th EU Research Framework programme to boost organic research. The EU can't allow itself to miss this chance to foster innovations and economic development in line with the need of society for sustainable solutions.”

TP Organics used this presentation to launch its first major document: “Vision for an Organic Food and Farming Research Agenda to 2025 – Organic Knowledge for the Future”. The Vision is a publication prepared after a one-year round of consultations among the partners of the Platform and the research community. The document reveals the huge potential of the organic food production to mitigate some of the major global problems of the century - from climate change, to food security, to the whole range of socio-economic challenges in the rural areas. It also argues the need for more research in specific priority areas and therefore for more funding for such research.

HOST

TP ORGANICS

Links

<http://www.tporganics.eu>

[http://www.tporganics.eu/upload/TPOrganics\\_VisionResearchAgenda.pdf](http://www.tporganics.eu/upload/TPOrganics_VisionResearchAgenda.pdf)

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Technology Platform