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COMMISSION DECISION

of 3 June 2009

establishing the expert group for technical advice on organic production

(2009/427/EC)

(OJ L 139, 5.6.2009, p. 29)

Amended by:

		Official Journal		
		No	page	date
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▼B

COMMISSION DECISION

of 3 June 2009

establishing the expert group for technical advice on organic production

(2009/427/EC)

Article 1

The 'expert group for technical advice on organic production'

The expert group for technical advice on organic production, hereinafter referred to as 'the group', is hereby set up.

Article 2

Task

The group's task shall be to assist the Commission in:

(a) evaluating products, substances and techniques which can be used in organic production, taking into account objectives and principles laid down in Regulation (EC) No 834/2007;

(b) improving existing rules and developing new production rules;

(c) bringing about an exchange of experience and good practices in the field of organic production.

Article 3

Consultation

1. The Commission may consult the group on any matter relating to the area of organic production.

2. The chairperson of the group may advise the Commission that it is desirable to consult the group on a specific question.

Article 4

Membership — Appointment

1. The group shall be composed of 13 members.

2. The members of the group shall be appointed by the Commission from specialists with competence in the areas referred to in Articles 2 and 3(1) and who have responded to the public call for applications. The Commission may also establish a pool list of candidates that could not be appointed as permanent members although they were considered suitable for a position in the group in the course of the selection procedure.

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3. This pool list can be used to appoint replacements for members of the group or to appoint as members of the sub-groups.

4. The members of the group and of the sub-groups shall be appointed in a personal capacity and shall advise the Commission independently of any outside influence.

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5. Members of the group are appointed for a 4-year renewable term of office and may not serve for more than three consecutive mandates. They shall remain in office until such time as they are replaced in accordance with paragraph 6 or their term of office ends.

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6. Members who are no longer capable of contributing effectively to the group's deliberations, who resign or who do not comply with the conditions set out in paragraph 4 of this Article, or Article 287 of the Treaty, may be replaced for the remainder of their term of office.

7. Members appointed in a personal capacity shall each year sign an undertaking to act in the public interest and a declaration indicating the absence or existence of any interest which may undermine their objectivity. They shall also declare at each meeting any specific interest which may be considered as prejudicial to their independence in relation to the items on the agenda.

8. The names of members appointed in a personal capacity in the group and in the sub-groups and those included in the pool list shall be published on the Internet site of the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development and in the Register of Expert Groups. These names shall be collected, processed and published in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001.

Article 5

Operation

1. The group elects a chairperson and two vice-chairpersons from its members by a simple majority.

2. In agreement with the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, sub-groups may be set up to examine specific questions under terms of reference established by the group. Such groups shall be dissolved as soon as their mandates are fulfilled. Sub-groups shall be composed of up to seven members from the members of the group or from the pool list referred to in Article 4(3).

3. The Commission's representative may ask experts or observers with specific competence on a subject on the agenda to participate in the group's or sub-group's deliberations if this is useful or necessary.

4. Information obtained by participating in the deliberations of a group or sub-group shall not be divulged if, in the opinion of the Commission, that information relates to confidential matters.

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5. The group and its sub-groups shall normally meet on Commission premises in accordance with the procedures and schedule established by it. The Commission shall provide secretarial services. Other Commission officials with an interest in the proceedings may attend meetings of the group and its sub-groups.

6. The group shall adopt its rules of procedure on the basis of the standard rules of procedure adopted by the Commission ([1]).

7. The Commission may publish on the Internet, in the original language of the document concerned, the agenda, the minutes, any summary, conclusion, or partial conclusion or working document of the group.

Article 6

Meeting expenses

The Commission shall reimburse travel and, where appropriate, subsistence expenses for members and experts in connection with the group's activities in accordance with the Commission's rules on the compensation of external experts.

No remuneration shall be paid for the services rendered under this Decision.

Meeting expenses are reimbursed within the limits of the annual budget allocated to the group by the responsible Commission services.

Article 7

Entry into force

The decision shall take effect on the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

([1]) SEC(2005) 1004.