



## DECISION

At its 60th sitting, held on 16 October 2014, the German Bundestag decided, on the basis of Bundestag Printed Paper 18/2839 on the:

**Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on organic production and labelling of organic products, amending Regulation (EU) No XXX/XXX of the European Parliament and of the Council [Official Controls Regulation] and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 COM(2014) 180 final; Council document 7956/14\*)**

**here: Opinion delivered to the Federal Government in accordance with Article 23 (3) of the Basic Law**

and having been apprised of the communication in Printed Paper 18/1393 No. A.31, to adopt the following resolution in accordance with Article 23 (3) of the Basic Law:

I. The German Bundestag notes:

Organic production has become established on the market. The legal provisions relating to organic products should be updated in a consistent manner, in order to:

- meet consumer expectations
- enhance quality standards
- reduce obstacles
- foster competition.

To this end, the Commission has published a proposal for a revision of the EU Organic Regulation which would significantly change the current legal parameters. Particularly in view of its clearly excessive requirements, the proposed revision would risk derailing the continuous growth in organic production and organic farms. There is no need for a complete overhaul of the tried-and-tested EU legal framework in order to continue to allow organic production to flourish. The current framework should be retained and updated in a selective and targeted manner.

II. The German Bundestag calls on the Federal Government to seek to ensure, in the negotiations in the Council, that the existing Regulations, (EC) No. 834/2007, (EC) No. 889/2008 and (EC) No. 1235/2008, are updated. The proposal of 25 March 2014 has clear weaknesses and cannot be accepted in its current form. The organic sector will instead continue to require an appropriate and reliable legal framework in future. The rules on controls on organic farming must



not be watered down, as trustworthy controls are crucial to consumer confidence in organic products and thus to the further development of the market.

III. In particular, the German Bundestag calls on the Federal Government to assert in the Council the following main interests, within the meaning of Section 8 (4) of the Act on Cooperation between the Federal Government and the German Bundestag in Matters concerning the European Union (EUZBBG):

- The specific legal rules governing the tried-and-tested process-based organic control system must remain in specialised EU legislation; full integration into the horizontal EU Official Controls Regulation, (EC) No. 882/2004, must be prevented.
- Maximum residue limits must apply equally to all foods: the introduction of special residue limits for substances that are not authorised for use in organic production must be rejected.
- The two-level control process for organic farming and food production, involving organic control bodies and supervisory national authorities, must be retained in principle.
- Risk-based controls must be expanded in the EU, while retaining a minimum frequency of controls per year. Improvements must be made in terms of cross-border communication in the control sector and in terms of the available sanctions.
- In the import rules, the recognition of equivalent standards for imported products must be retained in principle; however, significant improvements must be made to their implementation, in line with requirements, in third countries.
- In third countries, the controls must be adapted to reflect the risks which are present, in order to create a level playing field for producers inside and outside the EU.
- The adaptation of the organic production rules must take into account the social, cultural, geographic and climate conditions in Europe; exemptions granted on practical grounds must not be overlooked.
- The delegated acts provided for in the Commission's Proposal for a Regulation of 25 March 2014 must be reduced in number, and/or their scope must be clearly defined. Central provisions of the Regulation must remain subject to the ordinary legislative procedure.