

Dear IFOAM EU Member,

May 2018's IFOAM EU General Assembly marked some important steps for the future development of our organisation. These **changes have been reflected in our [official documents](#)**: Statutes, Rules of procedures and Working Methods.

7 motions out of 9 have been collectively discussed and approved, 2 with amendments, to serve you, our membership, even better and review our activities in a spirit of continuous improvement.

Making IFOAM EU fit for the future

In continuation of the work done since 2016, the new IFOAM EU Board will work to develop a proposal based on the recommendation report 'Making IFOAM EU fit for the future' (see motion 6). The report contains **recommendations and options to adjust the IFOAM EU structure and internal procedures**, in view of future changes of the sector and of the organisation.

As part of the discussion, the need to make the organisation financially independent and secure its capacity emerged. Therefore, an **adjustment of the membership fee scheme for 2019** passed (see motion 7). The [new fee scheme](#) will enter into force in the invoicing process in December 2018. The motion includes a one-time 20% increase of the membership fees for all categories and for all members with a turnover above 30.000 EUR.

Governance and Structure

The General Assembly marked some important changes also for what concerns the IFOAM EU Board and internal structure. Through motions 1, 3 and 8, it has been agreed:

- To **establish a limited number of consecutive Board mandates**: 3 for the President position and 4 for individual positions
- To **eliminate the mandatory presence of 50% of Council members in the Board composition**, the link with the Board is guaranteed by Council Chairs' participation as observers to each Board meeting
- To **eliminate the mandatory assignment of the Board Vice-Presidents to the areas of regulation and policy**, keeping the election of a Board President, a Treasurer and two Vice-Presidents

A New Interest Group for Organic Retailers (IGOR)

Next to a farming, a processing/trade and a certification representative, the General Assembly agreed to extend the **mandatory representation in the Board by including a retailer representative**, effective from the next Board elections. The new Interest Group of Organic Retailers (IGOR) has been launched on 26 September in Vienna. We will help the organic specialised retail sector to find a voice at the European level and tackle the challenges they currently face at a time of significant changes on the organic market.

Direct election of Board sector representatives from each Interest Group

Motion 4 envisages each Interest Group to elect its representative within the Board. The Nomination Committee will take the elected sector representatives as candidates for the Board elections. During the Board elections, the IFOAM EU General Assembly will be asked to endorse the candidates that have been elected by the respective Interest Groups.

In **2019** we will continue implementing our [Strategy](#) to:

- **Organic on every table:** by bringing your voice in shaping the current and future Organic Regulations and the Common Agricultural Policy
- **Improve Inspire Deliver:** by building the capacity of organic stakeholders and the organic movement in the Central and Eastern European countries (CEE) and increasing the knowledge of organic farming by coordinating or participating in projects
- **Fair Play Fair Pay:** by ensuring that value and power are fairly distributed among all the operators in the system, and that the costs and benefits of food production are accounted for and enhancing a continuous dialogue between producers, traders, certifiers and distributors that would benefit the whole chain.

As organic continues to grow rapidly in Europe, the organic movement has to remain united and cherish its organic principles. This growth is reflected in IFOAM EU reaching 200 members in the year we celebrate our 15th anniversary.

We'd like to thank you for your trust and we hope you'd continue walking this path with us and engaging with the work we do for organics every day!

Sincerely,

Jan Plagge
IFOAM EU President

Eduardo Cuoco
IFOAM EU Director