

IFOAM EU Organic Aquaculture Expert Group
(part of the Global group *IFOAM Aquaculture Forum*)

- Terms of reference –

(Approved by IFOAM EU Board on 27 March 2015)

Type of working group	IFOAM EU Organic Aquaculture Expert Group
Time Period	Unlimited if not concluded otherwise
Office responsible	Brussels office, regulation manager Emanuele Busacca to manage and regulation assistant Kathleen Delage to coordinate work and provide practical support
Members	<p>Temporary EU chair: Chris Atkinson (Soil Association)</p> <p>Temporary Global and EU coordinator : Isabel Griffith (Soil Association) - in charge of website management and mailing lists in cooperation with IFOAM and IFOAM EU offices.</p> <p>Membership open to IFOAM EU members that are aquaculture associations, cross-sectorial associations with aquaculture as important sector in its work structure, certification bodies, aquaculture and/or seaweed companies, aquaculture and/or seaweed experts, aquaculture and/or seaweed researchers. Non-IFOAM EU members can participate to the group if their expertise is considered necessary.</p> <p>IFOAM EU Board will approve the insertion of EU experts in the group.</p> <p>EU and Global mailing list has been unified.</p> <p>IFOAM Global members/affiliates can give input in case of EU-linked consultation and/or discussion and vice-versa.</p> <p>However only EU members can take the final decision in case of recommendations on EU-related topics for IFOAM EU Board/Council.</p>
Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call within the EU membership to join the EU aquaculture expert group • Later on, experts can apply through their National Council members • EU Expert Group should elect at its kick off meeting/inauguration meeting a steering group with chair and vice chairs (total 3-5) for interims period to have election after one year for a long term chairmanship.
Mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To discuss and comment any issue/dossier/internal procedure that the expert group considers as important and that has relevance to EU organic aquaculture sector • To prepare positions and opinions for the IFOAM EU Council and/or Board relevant to aquaculture EU policies, regulation and research. • Special issues, e.g. position on detailed standards, will be assigned to specific task forces but expert group can participate or comment. • Work on issues related to advisory services/knowledge transfer
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To discuss and develop position related to organic aquaculture sector, in order to suggest it as general IFOAM EU position • To exchange information on all relevant issues related to organic aquaculture policies at national/EU level

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To contribute to the process of any other position making of the IFOAM EU Group related to organic production • Initiate/participate in specific lobby activities (the expert group may take the initiative to suggest an advocacy strategy in conjunction with the Brussels Office). • To raise funding for meeting costs • Organise events to inform/discuss with organic aquaculture community
Issues to consider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All positions/options developed need to be approved by the IFOAM EU Board or Council (Council needs at least to be consulted) • Lobby strategies should be developed in conjunction with office and Board • The expert group will not get visible as such to outside – members of expert group act only through the IFOAM EU Group. <p>Minimum requirements, working methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert Group has to elect a chair and vice chairs (steering group) that are responsible for communication with the appointed Office coordinator and the Board. • All activities have to be in line with the general working methods of the IFOAM EU Group. • As the Expert Group is part of the IFOAM EU Group internal structure it does not undertake any external representations. However, the Expert Group is invited to be proactive and should suggest positions, events or advocacy strategies. It should understand itself as an important enrichment to the work of the IFOAM EU Group. • All positions need to be approved by the IFOAM EU Group according to its procedures. • Advocacy activities should be coordinated by the Office and must be in line with IFOAM EU Group positions. It is important to respect that IFOAM EU Group statements are not made by individuals and working groups contributing to the work of the organisation, but on behalf of the Group as the whole. • The Office should facilitate the work of the Expert Group with coordination and technical support.