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April 23, 2014

Organic and GOTS

Dear Herbert

The IFOAM World Board discussed the relationship of GOTS and IFOAM at its board meeting of the 12th of April 2014 and has underlined the common stakeholders, the common history and the common principles. It would welcome GOTS's membership in order to assure your participation in the global organic movement, led, united and assisted by IFOAM.

The World Board appreciates the high-level quality work of GOTS in order to gain consumers' confidence and to keep trustfulness of the organic systems. The World Board was pleased to get your messages of commitments to the *Principles of Organic Agriculture* and other **Organic Landmarks** such as the *Definition of Organic Agriculture* or the *Best Practice Guidelines for Agriculture and Value Chains*.


During the discussion, the World Board stated that presently, the GOTS standard most likely wouldn't be equivalent to COROS in an assessment; therefore would not qualify for the Family of Standards, which draws the line between organic and not organic standards.

However, the World Board recognizes the market challenges and the nowadays-technical limitations of large scale textile processing. It also recognizes the improvements in the past and GOTS's leadership and uniqueness in organic textile processing. With that, IFOAM endorses GOTS as the minimum reference for organic textile processing. It encourages GOTS to further develop and to follow the principle of continuous improvement.

This endorsement includes the recommendation to Governments, not to start development of redundant standards and regulations but to make references to GOTS as processing standard for organic labeled textiles.

We hope that you see this as a positive development and an opportunity to boost GOTS's uptake for supporting the vision of a freely accessible, united and credible global organic movement in its full diversity.

Sincerely,



Markus Arbenz
IFOAM Executive Director