



ORGANIC FOOD: Good for farmers, workers, climate, and the environment

15 November 2024, 9:30-13:00 CET

European Economic and Social Committee, Rue van Maerlant 2, 1040 Brussels

Organic Food: A Path for Sustainability

The event will highlight the numerous benefits of organic food for various stakeholders:

- **Farmers** benefit from healthier soils, reduced exposure to harmful chemicals, and more stable, sustainable agricultural practices.
- **Workers** in the organic sector are shielded from the hazards of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers.
- The **climate** benefits from the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration through organic farming methods.
- The **environment** gains from improved biodiversity, water conservation, and reduced pollution.

Over the past century, organic agriculture has evolved into a vital component of sustainable food systems across Europe and beyond. This year marks the 100th anniversary of organic farming, an important milestone that will be celebrated at the event.

European Dialogue on Organic Territorial Strategies

The event in Brussels will serve as a platform for European cities and institutions to engage in a dialogue around organic territorial strategies, with a focus on public procurement. Public procurement plays a key role in driving demand for organic products, fostering regional and local food systems, and ensuring that the food served in public institutions aligns with sustainability goals.

The discussions will reflect on the recent successes of healthy food initiatives across cities like Bremen, Salzburg, Nuremberg, Munich, Florence, Paris, Seeham, Copenhagen, Riga, Liège, and more. These initiatives have demonstrated the positive outcomes of collaboration between local governments, bio-regions, and national entities, driving healthier and more sustainable food systems for all.

Key Milestones and Manifestos

Two significant manifestos and a petition will be highlighted at the event:

- The [Manifesto for the establishment of minimum mandatory criteria for Public canteens across the EU](#), developed by the EU Food Policy Coalition, which calls for mandatory minimum criteria for public canteens in Europe. This initiative has already been endorsed by many organisations and European local and regional governments as a very concrete proposal toward a more sustainable food system.
- The [Freeing Up Public Procurement Manifesto](#), signed by over 80 cities and facilities in France and Belgium, along with associations in Spain and Estonia promotes greater flexibility and sustainability in public food procurement policies.
- In addition, the [European Petition for healthy school meals across Europe](#) has garnered over hundred thousand signatures, underscoring the European public's desire for better nutrition and food education for every child in every school.

Speakers

Peter Schmidt,	European Economic and Social Committee;
Piroska Kallay	European Economic and Social Committee;
Audrey Pulvar	City of Paris
Jan Kohlmüller	City of Bremen
Eva-Sonja Bauhus	City of Nuremberg
Katri Kuusk	City of Tartu
Dario Nardella	Member of the European Parliament
Elena Panichi	European Commission
Karl Kempkens	BML, Germany
Edoardo Cuoco	IFOAM organics Europe
Marion Tannion	France Urbaine
Jean-Marc Louvin	Buy Better Food Campaign
Peter Defranceschi	ICLEI
Antonio Ferrentino	Citta' del Bio
Antonio Bettanini	In Cammino-Abazie d'Europa
Carlo Triarico	Association for Biodynamic Agriculture
Alessandro Piccolo	Association for Biodynamic Agriculture
Claudio Serafini	Organic Cities Network Europe

Simultaneous Interpretation Available

To foster an inclusive discussion, simultaneous interpretation in French, English, German, and Italian will be available, ensuring that participants from across Europe can engage fully in the dialogue.

Join this critical event to explore how organic food systems can shape a more sustainable, equitable future for all. Let's work together to build stronger regional food systems that benefit not only our health but also the planet.