



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Organics equivalence agreement with Chile - Information by the Commission to the Council on opening of negotiations

Delegations will find attached a note from the Commission services informing the Council on the opening of negotiations with Chile in view of concluding a bilateral agreement on the equivalence of the EU and Chilean legislations on organic products.

This information is delivered in accordance with Council Decision 10474/14 of 16 June 2014 authorising the opening of negotiations.

INFORMATION TO THE SCA
EU-CHILE
NEGOTIATIONS ON TRADE IN ORGANIC PRODUCTS

The application of Chile to be recognised by the EU as having equivalent organic production rules and control system dates back to 1992, but no organic standard was in place in Chile at that time.

Correspondence between Chile and the European Commission began with the adoption of the new organic standard of Chile in 2005. The Commission, assisted by two co-reporting Member States, assessed the Chilean application for equivalence recognition and requested additional information in 2006, to which Chile formally replied in 2009, but no substantial progress towards recognition could be made, also because of the large number of applications received and the limited resources in the Commission.

The Commission has devoted some additional resources in 2013 and 2014 to analyse the applications. To that end, Chile was requested to up-date its technical dossier following the adoption of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products.

A visit to examine on-the-spot the application of the Chilean organic production rules and to verify how the competent authority carries out supervision of the control bodies was carried out in May 2014.

In June 2014, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations on agreements between the European Union and third countries on trade in organic products.

In June 2015, the EU sent an application to Chile for the recognition of equivalence of EU legislation on organic products.

In accordance with the Council decision to authorise the opening of negotiations, the Commission would like to inform the Council that it will initiate negotiations with Chile in view of concluding a bilateral agreement on the equivalence of the legislations on organic products.

On the basis of the Council's negotiating directives, the agreement with Chile on trade in organics products aims at fostering trade in organic products between the EU and Chile, achieving a high level of respect of the principle of organic production rules as well as the protection of the EU organic logo in Chile.

The first round of negotiations is planned to take place in late autumn 2015 for a possible conclusion by the first quarter of 2016.

The Commission will inform the Council in due time on progress in the negotiations.