



*Recherche Innovation Transfert de Technologie
pour les Matières fertilisantes Organiques*

***Survey on legislation for Fertilizers,
and Growing media in various
European countries***

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Plan

1. Methodology
2. Results obtained
3. Perspectives





Methodology

- Survey was conducted in 2006
- Countries contacted were: Germany, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, United Kingdom, Norway, Denmark, Netherlands, Austria, Belgium and Spain (France was also considered)
 - For Belgium and Spain, no answer were received... but texts were found
 - At this stage, information collected concerned 10 EU countries





Methodology

- Questions asked to experts were the following
 - What are the law and policies in the framework of trading organic fertilizers? (voluntary / compulsory standards?)
 - What is the methodology for the evaluation of risk for using a new fertilizer – what are the procedures of registrations (permitting to trade new products)?
 - How is the control working? Who is controlling that traded products are conform to laws of to standards?
 - Are they any certification followed voluntarily? What are they (ecolabel, other?)
 - Do you know about projects for the evolution of this global framework?

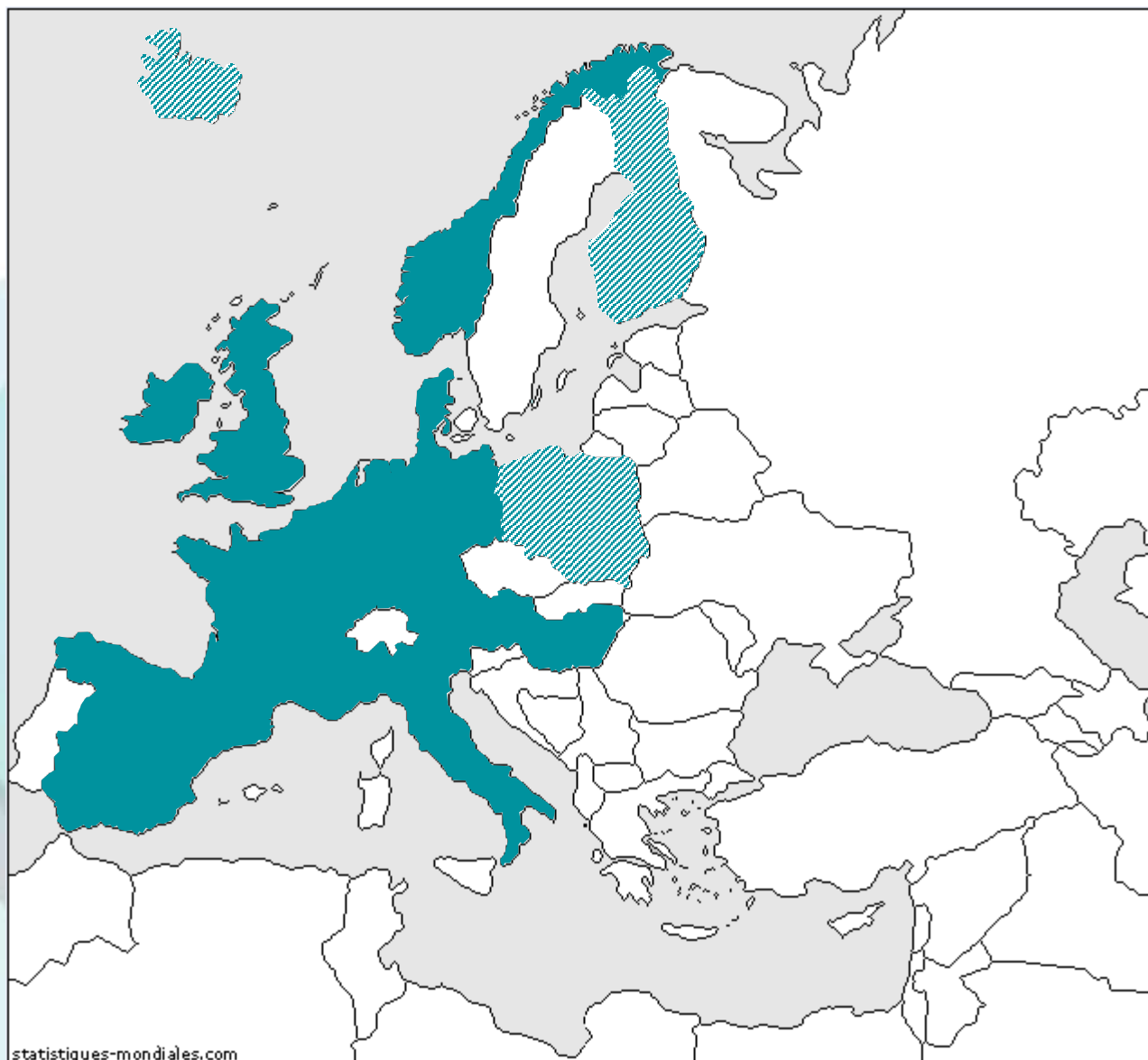




Methodolgy

- Information were also collected during symposium and in literature
 - William F. Brinton, Compost quality standards & guidelines – Final report prepared for New York State Association of Recyclers, **2000** – *Woods End Research Laboratory, Inc. – Compost Quality in America 42p.*
 - « Biological Treatment of Biowastes – COmposting, anaerobic digestion, MBT: Challenges, opportunity, innovative strategies » **2006 ISWA – BEACON Conferences, Perugia, May 2006**
- Some data have been updated to account for new regulations developed since 2006 (information through Dir 98/34/CE),
 - But the survey was not re-conducted
 - Information were added about Poland, Finland, Spain, Island, Check Republic and Belgium => all together we collected information from 16 EU countries
 - Do not hesitate to contact us and give updated information if you consider it necessary







Results

Simplified procedure for known products

- 13 countries reported to have specific policies for trading known products:
 - A list of products (some times restricted to composts, sometimes much wider) and / or of raw materials
 - All consider appropriate information of users is necessary
 - All consider protection of human, animal, plant health and the environment is necessary
 - Some have criteria on efficiency (nutrients content, organic matter, dry material, electrical conductivity...)
 - Some have criteria on innocuousness (heavy metals and/or pathogenic microbes...)





Results

Exhaustive procedure for new products

- Only German experts did not know about such procedure
- Information collected are generally very synthetic and difficult to compare.
 - France, Italy and Netherlands seem to have similar procedures
 - In Hungary the procedure is adapted to mineral product and not to organic ones. New regulation is under development for this purpose
 - Norway and Ireland underlined that innocuousness criteria are major criteria but did not know if efficiency was taken into account.





Other Results

- Biostimulants, phytostimulants and elicitors
 - Are considered as '*plant protection products*' in the Dir 91-414 by some countries
 - active substances **and preparations** containing one or more active substances, put up in the form in which they are supplied to the user, intended to:
 - 1.1. **protect plants** or plant products against all harmful organisms or prevent the action of such organisms, in so far as such substances or preparations are not otherwise defined below;
 - 1.2. **influence the life processes of plants**, other than as a nutrient, (e.g. growth regulators);
 - 1.3. ...
 - Have regulation of these products integrated into that for fertilizers in other countries (5)





Results

Variation of criteria

- Criteria of specification considered for a green compost

	Microbes	Heavy metals	Organic pollutants	Agronomic test	Impurities	Weeds	Dry material / Moisture	Organic matter	Nutrients contents	pH
United Kingdom	x	x		x	x	x				
France	x	x	x		x		x		x	
Spain					x		x			
Belgium							x		x	x
Poland	x	x		x						
Italie	x	x			x		x		x	x

Organic Matter

Organic Matter

Organic C and Humic C

Organic Matter & Decomposition

09 september 2009





Results

Variation of criteria

	Microbes	Heavy metals	Organic pollutants	Agronomic test	Impurities	Weeds	Dry material / Moisture	Organic matter	Nutrients contents	pH
United Kingdom	x	x		x	x	x				
France		x	x		x		x	x	x	
Spain					x		x	x		
Belgium							x	x	x	x
Poland	x			x						
Italie		x			x		x	x	x	x

Salmonella, Pathogens E coli

Salmonella, Viable eggs of Ascari sp, Viable eggs of Tricuris sp, Viable eggs of Toxocara sp

Viable Helmond eggs, Salmonella

Salmonella, total Enterobacteriaceae, fecal Streptococci, Nematods, Trematods, Cestods





Results

Other variations

- When criteria are the same
 - Methods of evaluation differ
 - Limit value differ
- Example of Salmonella
 - Interdiction, Absence in 1g, Absence in 25g





Results - Controls

- Controls are included in the policy of all countries
- Generally, state services are in charge of controls (minister of agriculture, general service of inspection, fraud service...)
- Other additional controls are :
 - Norway: Producer have to do self-controls and to send them to the State service, which will “only” control that declarations are sincere
 - Norway, Italy and the Netherlands: organic products to be used in organic farming are controlled by private institutes of certification
 - United-Kingdom: controls of traded composts are performed in the framework of the BSI-PAS-100 which imposes a certified HACCP
 - Poland and Island: all products should be registered to be authorized : declaration include information on composition and specifications





Results - Controls

- In several countries, state controls are considered as insufficient
 - “ many voluntary certification have developed to compensate insufficient state controls”
 - “ the insufficient number of control is such that producers that respect the policy have problem of unfair competition with producers that that don't respect it”
 - “ I am sorry to say that this¹ has been given less priority last years, in favor of working with different diseases that did not come (e.g. bird flue)”

¹The regular control the companies with intervals of a few years by the Authority





Conclusions & Perspectives

- Many EU countries face similar problems
- Many EU countries base their policies on similar principles
- EU countries have different regulations
- More and more professional are asking for harmonized regulation
- Let's be positive and ... just do it!

