



Tuesday, 18 April, 2017

Imports of organic products subject to new EU electronic certification system

A new system of electronic certification to better monitor imports of organic products becomes applicable tomorrow, making the EU a global leader in traceability and in the collection of reliable data on trade of these products.

This pioneering e-certification system will contribute to enhancing food safety provisions and reducing potential fraud. It will also reduce the administrative burden for operators and authorities, and provide much more comprehensive statistical data on organic imports.

Both paper and e-certification will be used during a 6-month transition period. As of 19 October 2017, organic imports will be covered only by e-certification.

EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Phil **Hogan** said: *"Our commitment to stringent certification and inspection measures is an important component in the EU's food safety standards. These high standards have allowed us to become the best address for food in the world, but we must always strive to find new and better ways to do even more. These new rules will improve the traceability of organic products, which is an important growing market."* [More information here](#)

EU project for nuclear safety for Iran

The European Commission has signed the first ever project for nuclear safety co-operation with Iran, under the framework of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The € 2.5 million project aims to enhance the capabilities of the Iranian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (INRA). It will do so by preparing a feasibility study for the Nuclear Safety Centre foreseen in the JCPOA. It will support the INRA in developing a nuclear regulatory framework, working toward the accession by Iran to several international nuclear conventions, including the Convention on Nuclear Safety, and reviewing the results of the stress test to take place in the Bushehr nuclear power plant. The project is the first of a € 5 million action approved by the European Union in 2016 under the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation. A second project for the stress test at the Bushehr nuclear power plant is going to be signed in the coming weeks. You can find more information on nuclear safety cooperation in third countries [here](#), and specifically with Iran [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

High Representative/Vice-President Mogherini travels to China, India and the Russian Federation

Federica **Mogherini**, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, will travel to China, India and the Russian Federation from 18 to 24 April. In China, the High Representative will hold on 19 April the 7th EU-China Strategic Dialogue with State Councillor Yang Jiechi to take forward the bilateral relationship in view of the upcoming 19th EU-China Summit in Brussels. The HR/VP and the State Councillor will discuss cooperation on global challenges, such as climate change, as well as regional and security issues. During her visit, she will also meet a number of other Ministers as well as business representatives. She will hold an interactive discussion with students at Tsinghua University. In India, High Representative **Mogherini** will hold consultations with the Minister of External Relations, Sushma Swaraj on 21 April. The HR/VP and the Minister will discuss preparations for the 14th EU-India Summit, to be held later this year in New Delhi. Bilateral, regional and global issues are also on the agenda. The High Representative will also hold talks with the National Security Advisor and with other members of the Indian Government. In addition, she will open the EU@60 Treaty of Rome Exhibition. In Russia, the High Representative will meet on 24 April in Moscow the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Sergey Lavrov. They will discuss the most pressing foreign policy issues, in particular the conflict in Syria. They will also discuss the situation in Libya, the Middle East peace process, Iran, Afghanistan and the conflict in eastern Ukraine, as well as bilateral relations.

MEX/17/1003



Find out [here](#) what will be discussed next week in the European Commission, the European Council and the European Parliament.