



Press release

Organic certification now networked Europe-wide *Strategic cooperation between EASY-CERT and bioC*

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EASY-CERT (www.easy-cert.com) is a certification platform established several years ago by the Swiss company bio.inspecta AG and Austria Bio Garantie. The two certification bodies have worked ever since to expand their services. bioC GmbH (www.bioC.info) has ten years of experience running a counterpart platform in Germany. As of 29 November 2012, the two platforms are linked, holding detailed and assured information (digital certificates, label approvals etc.) on some 60,000 operators in most of Europe's countries of origin and beyond.

The two certification platforms have been well-established information hubs for some time now, offering extensive information on the certification status of organic operators in Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Italy and Luxembourg. The web-based services provided by bioC and EASY-CERT permit queries of their certification databases in real time.

Certainty and transparency throughout Europe – and beyond

The expanded services now available assure greater certainty in the international organic certification system. This benefits all stakeholders in the organic market. With immediate effect, the two platforms provide detailed and assured information (digital certificates, label approvals etc.) on some 60,000 certified agricultural holdings, processing firms and trading companies. EASY-CERT and bioC have thereby already implemented the European Union and Swiss requirements concerning provision of digital certificates which are due to enter into force on 1 January 2013.

"This cooperation between bioC and EASY-CERT boosts transparency and certainty throughout Europe's organic market," notes Ueli Steiner, CEO of bio.inspecta AG and initiator of EASY-CERT.

Further certification bodies are invited to integrate data on the holdings and companies certified by them, thus completing the listings and contributing to improved transparency in Europe's organic market. "Through this cooperation, we have laid the foundation for a European registry," stresses Rolf Mäder, CEO of bioC GmbH.

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