

LETTER OF INTENT

BETWEEN

***THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
LITHUANIA,***

THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA,

THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA

AND

***THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND CONSUMER
PROTECTION OF THE FEDERAL STATE OF MECKLENBURG-
VORPOMMERN OF GERMANY***

REGARDING COOPERATION IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION IN THE FIELD OF ORGANIC FARMING AND ORGANIC FOOD PRODUCTION

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Consumer Protection of the Federal State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern of Germany, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Rural Affairs of the Republic of Estonia (hereinafter referred to as the Partners), in order to establish conditions that allow mutually beneficial cooperation among the countries of the Baltic Sea Region on the basis of joint work in the field of organic farming and food production (hereinafter referred to as organic production),

Have come to the following understanding:

I. THE SUBJECT OF COOPERATION

1. The cooperation comprises the fields of organic production and other areas within the competence of the Partners, taking account of the national legislation of the Partners and the provisions of European law and international agreements.

II. THE MAIN DIRECTIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF COOPERATION

2. The Partners have identified the following main directions and activities for their cooperation in the field of organic farming and food production:
 - 2.1. Creating a platform for exchange between the Ministries on the Partners' organic production strategies (preparation and implementation):
 - 2.1.1. Exchange visits of experts from the Ministries on this subject.
 - 2.2. Strengthening the system of controls in the field of organic production:
 - 2.2.1. Sharing of information and experience among the competent institutions regarding legal provisions, sanctions systems and competences by means of international visits;
 - 2.2.2. Cooperation in the field of controls in the form of conformity checks of organic farms and enterprises;
 - 2.2.3. Exchange on the traceability of organic products (import and processing in the companies);
 - 2.2.4. Exchange of experience regarding the implementation of EU provisions on the harmonization of control procedures and national legislation.
 - 2.3. Cooperation in the field of research, teaching and public relations:
 - 2.3.1. Participation in joint international projects and research activities;
 - 2.3.2. Exchanging research results among scientists, farmers and processors and conducting public relations activities aimed at consumers;
 - 2.3.3. Creating possibilities for student and trainee exchange among enterprises, as well as educational and research institutions of the Partners.
 - 2.4. Improving expertise (skills) in organic farming and food production enterprises:
 - 2.4.1. Exchange of experience among enterprises by means of information sharing and visits to relevant institutions, enterprises and exhibitions.
 - 2.5. Promotion of organic production by:
 - 2.5.1. Informing society about the advantages of organic production;
 - 2.5.2. Organizing domestic competitions for the "best organic farm" and the "best award-winning organic product";
 - 2.5.3. Preparation and dissemination of specialist information and participation in exhibitions and events.
 - 2.6. Promoting trade in goods (import and export) and innovation in the field of farming and food production by:

- 2.6.1. Exchange of information and experience on best practices and mutual visits by representatives of organic growers associations, enterprises operating in the field of farming and food production and local business communities;
 - 2.6.2. Facilitating the establishment of contacts between different representatives of organic growers associations, enterprises operating in the field of farming and food production and local business communities that are involved in organic production and marketing activities.
- 2.7. The Partners can also cooperate in other areas of organic production depending on their multilateral interests.

III. FINANCING





3. The Partners are responsible for their own expenses/funds required within the framework of their cooperation, where this cooperation entails the implementation of points of substance listed in section II of this Letter of Intent, pursuant to international agreements and national legal provisions.

IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS

4. In the interests of targeted cooperation in the field of organic production, meetings will be organized between the Partners, priority issues of cooperation will be more closely defined and, guided by issues of significance, projects for future cooperation will be defined.
5. Practical cooperation will take account of the national legislation of the Partners and the provisions of European law.
6. Amendments and adjustments to this Letter of Intent can be made only upon the agreement among all Partners. They will be introduced by means of a special annex to the Letter of Intent. This documentation will be an integral part of the Letter of Intent.
7. Any differences of opinion arising between the Partners over the interpretation of this Letter of Intent will be solved through negotiations and consultations between the Partners.

8. This Letter of Intent comes into effect on the date of its signature. Any of the Partners wishing to withdraw from the Letter of Intent will provide notification in writing to all the other Partners, giving the date of the withdrawal. The Partners will receive the notification at least three months before the intended date of withdrawal.

Signed in Mühlengiez, Germany on 11. of September, 2015 in four copies in the English language.

<p>On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania</p> <p>Vilius Martusevičius Vice Minister</p> 	<p>On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia</p>  <p>Armands Krauze Parliamentary Secretary</p>	<p>On behalf of the Ministry of Rural Affairs of the Republic of Estonia</p>  <p>Ants Noot Secretary General</p>	<p>On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Consumer Protection of the Federal State of Mecklenburg- Vorpommern of Germany</p> <p>Dr. Till Backhaus Minister</p> 
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