



- Press Release -

The International Platform of Insects for Food and Feed

Brussels, 19th July 2021

The European insect sector calls for the development of EU regulatory standards for organic production

[The International Platform of Insects for Food and Feed \(IPIFF\)](#) - the European umbrella organisation representing stakeholders active in the production of insects for food and feed - releases today its [Contribution Paper on the European Union \(EU\) organic certification standards for insect farming activities](#).

The recent regulatory developments at EU level, such as the upcoming authorisation of insect processed animal proteins (PAPs) in poultry and pig feed^[1], the first EU novel food authorisation^[2] and the EU baseline standards for insect frass^[3] mark the completion of a relevant chapter for the European insect sector. Anticipating the entry into force of all these pieces of legislation (i.e. covering food, feed and frass), IPIFF looks forward towards the next immediate priority of the sector - namely the creation of EU organic standards for insect farming activities. *'We developed this Contribution Paper as we intend to highlight the commitment of the European insect sector to the EU Farm to Fork and its [Organic Action Plan](#)^[4] objectives on safe, healthy and nutritious food and feed products, in balance with nature'*, highlighted IPIFF's President, **Adriana Casillas**. In parallel, as the new EU organic legislation^[5] is expected to enter into force in the coming months^[6], *'we consider that it is necessary to facilitate progress on what may become the first EU organic legislation for insects as food and feed'*, complemented the IPIFF President.

Organic principles lie at the heart of insect farming. Most insect farms across the EU rely on the unique bioconversion of insects - without using additional agro-chemicals^[7] or GMOs. Insects feed on a wide range of underused agri-food by-/co-products, most of which are derived from local businesses, such as retailers or artisans. *'New agri-food actors, such as insect farming, may contribute to upscaling the organic sector by upcycling underused side-streams - including materials sourced from organic production chains, whenever available. In turn, such businesses provide much-needed high-quality insect-derived inputs that are scarce or not available in sufficient quantities, such as protein-rich food and feed ingredients or organic-based fertilisers'*, stated IPIFF's 1st vice-President, **Aman Paul**. *'Therefore, organic farming sectors - such as organic livestock, aquaculture or crop production would also benefit from incorporating insects and their derived products'*, complemented **Antoine Hubert**, IPIFF 2nd vice-President.

The priorities included in the recently-published Organic Action Plan^[8] reflect that the European insect sector is recognised among the solutions that can contribute to the 'Farm to Fork' objectives on organic production. In particular, the Plan aims at tackling the organic protein shortage by *'increasing the availability of locally sourced feed proteins'*, such as insects. Being part of the natural diet of a wide range of animals, such as fish, poultry and swine, insect-derived products can complement their nutrition thanks to high-quality proteins, as well as relevant micronutrients (e.g. vitamin B2, B12)^[9].

'We remain confident that, in the near future, the European legislator will finalise the work on the EU organic certification standards for insect farming - providing robust and realistic norms that reflect current market realities', concluded IPIFF's Secretary-General, **Christophe Derrien**.

[1] Expected to become effective by the end of Q3 2021 – more information in the IPIFF [Press Release](#) - IPIFF welcomes the ENVI Committee's vote backing the authorisation of insect PAPs in poultry and pig feed.

[2] More information in the IPIFF [Press Statement](#) on the first EU novel food authorisation.

[3] More information in the IPIFF [Press Release](#) - IPIFF hails the EU authorities' move to set up standards for insect frass as a major step forward for the European insect sector.

[4] IPIFF [Press Release](#) - IPIFF welcomes the European Commission 'Action Plan for the Development of the Organic Sector'.

[5] [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/848](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products

[6] 1st of January 2022

[7] Such as veterinary drugs or plant protection products.

[8] Ibid.4.

[9] See the [IPIFF Contribution Paper](#).

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Interested to know what 'insect farming' is about? Check our updated

'Frequently Asked Questions' on the [IPIFF website!](#)

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sector, follow us on our social media platforms!



The International Platform of Insects for Food and Feed (IPIFF) is a non-profit organisation which represents the interests of the insect production sector towards EU policymakers, European stakeholders and citizens. Composed of 78 members, most of which are European insect producing companies, IPIFF promotes the use of insects and insect-derived products as top tier source of nutrients for human consumption and animal feed.