

## PRESS-INFORMATION



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### Policy Meets Practice

#### European Commission representatives join annual EISA Farmers Exchange on Integrated Farming

**EISA (Berlin):** The annual EISA Farmers Exchange, hosted by ÖAIP, the Austrian Working Group for Integrated Plant Protection, took place close to Vienna, Austria, this year. “The event was a great and successful opportunity for farmers, representatives of their national associations and other organisations of the agricultural chain, politicians and civil servants from ten Member States and institutions of the European Union to share Integrated Farming experiences and to update the EISA Framework”, said Tony Worth, chairman of EISA. He expressed his satisfaction that the presence of representatives from the European Commission and the European Parliament also provided constructive discussion and strengthened EISA’s links with Brussels.

C. 50 people visited farms producing and marketing vegetables, vine and a variety of arable crops including one farm at which the Austrian environmental programme was demonstrated. “One element of this programme is a diverse range of evergreen fields, where the fields are treated by mulching and direct seeding only shortly after harvest. This saves resources and offers environmental advantages” said Mr Josef Rosner, vice-chairman of ÖAIP.

Mr Mark Cropper from the “Unit for Policy Analyses & Perspectives” of DG Agriculture and Rural Development said when questioned on the development of the future CAP: “It is time to put EISA on the map!”

The EISA Farmers Exchange has been organised for the sixth time, and in 2009 it was co-sponsored by the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Platform (SAI-Platform). Next year’s event is scheduled to take place in Sweden to further foster dialogue, exchange and promotion of the holistic concept of Integrated Farming both in politics and practice.

The European Initiative for Sustainable Development in Agriculture (EISA), founded in 2001, is an association of national farmers organisations from six EU Member States, namely FARRE (Forum de l’Agriculture Raisonnée Respectueuse de L’Environnement, France), FILL (Fördergemeinschaft Integrierte Landbewirtschaftung, Luxemburg), FNL (Fördergemeinschaft Nachhaltige Landwirtschaft, Germany), LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming, United Kingdom), ÖAIP (Österreichische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Integrierten Pflanzenschutz, Austria) and OiB (Odling i Balans, Sweden) to promote Integrated Farming on a European level.

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