

The Organic Food and Farming Targets Bill Campaign

Sustain, The Alliance for Better Food & Farming
94 White Lion Street, London N1 9PF
Tel: (020) 7837 1228; Fax: (020) 7837 1141
organictargetsbill@sustainweb.org

PRESS RELEASE

May 16th 2001: for immediate release

LABOUR MANIFESTO FAILS ON ORGANICS

Campaigners for the Organic Targets Bill are disappointed that so little support for organic farming was included in the Labour manifesto released today. [1]

Catherine Fookes, Co-ordinator of the Organic Targets Bill campaign which calls for an action plan for organic farming and a target of 30% of land to be organic by 2010, said:

"I am surprised that there was no commitment to an action plan for organic farming in the Labour Party manifesto. Last weekend at a major EU conference, Elliot Morley signed a declaration in support of an EU action plan for organic farming. Over half the Labour backbenchers in Parliament last session supported the Organic Targets Bill – it is time the Labour Party listened to its MPs. "

Notes to Editors

1] The manifesto mentions that organic farming may form one part of the recovery plan for rural Britain post food and mouth

2] More information on the Bill can be found at www.sustainweb.org

3] The EU conference "Organic Food and Farming – Towards Partnership and Action in Europe" took place May 10th – 11th in Copenhagen, and Ministers from 12 European Countries, including the UK signed up to the Declaration calling for an EU Wide Action Plan that analyses the barriers to growth within the organic sector

CONTACT

Catherine Fookes, Organic Targets Co-ordinator, Sustain: 0207 837 1228 / 07979 534050