

## **An international conference on Veganic Farming & Growing is set to open new opportunities for Vegan Organic Network and its members**

On 10 November VON members met with European representatives of Biocyclic Vegan International association in Greece and Austria, with a view to cooperate and further develop the values and standards of veganic farming and growing.

Axel Anders from the Biocyclic Network Services Berlin Office and Johannes Eisenbach from Biocyclic Vegan Network in Greece and Cyprus joined Jenny Hall, Dan Graham, Cherry Chang, David Graham, Tamara Şchiopu and Iain Tolhurst from Tolhurst Organic, certified veganic growers.

The meeting resulted in a plan to work towards an international conference in late 2019 or early 2020 with the aim to reach a "coalition of farmers and consumers working together towards a kinder and more sustainable world" (David Graham, founder of VON).

The conference objectives will be specifically to

- Reach a higher number of farmers converting to veganic farming
- Create awareness of the effects of animal farming on the environment and inspire ethical farming
- Create a world-wide bond between various veganic organisations and groups of farmers
- To reach a joint and linked food supply chain, including processors, caterers, retailers that feature veganic food products
- Introduce Veganic standards into mainstream agricultural policies and departments.

The Conference will be held in Europe or UK and will target the key audience who are able to make the changes and achieve the objectives above:

- Organic and in-conversion farmers and growers from around the world
- Animal rights organisations
- Environmental and agricultural journalists, bloggers and media agencies
- Academics from organic farming and food safety research centres and universities
- Vegan and Vegetarian societies, Wildlife Trust, Greenpeace
- International and country representatives of policy making agencies, political parties and party foundations
- Industry representatives – vegan processors, retailers, restaurateurs and chefs
- Celebrities who are at the fore-front of the promotion of a safer world for food, water and environment.

There is a work group working on the conference idea and developments and all updates on this milestone event will be posted on social media, website, newsletters and in our Growing Green International magazine.

For questions or suggestions, please contact Tamara Schiopu, VON Development Officer at [tschiopu@hotmail.com](mailto:tschiopu@hotmail.com)