



The certification of organic canteens all around Europe

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Sustainable school catering: Comparing Italian and other European experiences
Congress, Bologna, 27th-28th May 2010

Legal framework in the European Union

- now: Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007
“mass catering” excluded
- old: Council Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91
no specific mention



Authority for organic certification in the EU



The EU institutions



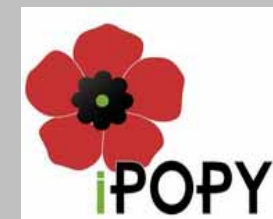
Directorates-General
Agriculture & Rural
Development
(DG AGRI)













The EC delegates organic certification to the EU Member States

- Currently quite a variety of ways of dealing with certification of organic catering amongst the 27 Member States:
 - national law,
 - national recommendations,
 - private standards.











Comparison amongst iPOPY countries

iPOPY country			
Ministry responsible for organic agriculture	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries
... delegated to ...	Office for Organic Agriculture and for Sustainable Agricultural Activities	Food Safety Authority (Evira)	Danish Plant Directorate & Danish Veterinary and Food Administration
organic certification is delegated to	private CBs (n=20)	state CBs (n=15)	state CBs (n=11)
national organic label	-		
state regulation for <u>canteens</u>	-	(officially) no	yes, special Organic Cuisine and older Smiley System
state label for <u>canteens</u>	-		
private regulations for <u>canteens</u>		-	-

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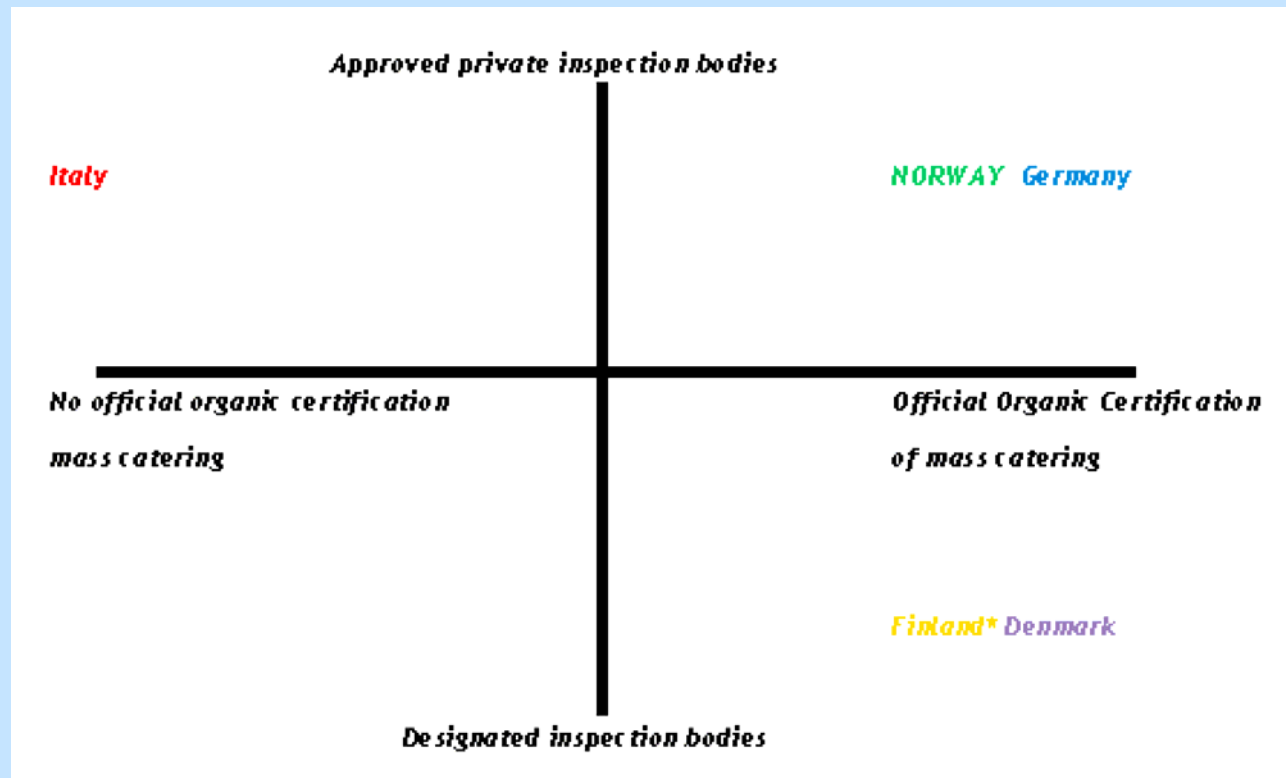
Comparison amongst iPOPY countries

iPOPY country			
Ministry responsible for organic agriculture	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry	Ministry of Agriculture and Food	Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection
... delegated to ...	Office for Organic Agriculture and for Sustainable Agricultural Activities	Mattilsynet	Federal Agency for Food and Agriculture
organic certification is delegated to	private CBs (n=20)	private CB (n=1)	private CBs (n=23)
national organic label	-		
state regulation for canteens	-	yes, Debio's standards	yes, compulsory organic certification by national law
state label for canteens	-		national organic label can be used for menu items
private regulations for canteens		-	yes, 3 of the 8 organic agriculture associations

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iPOPY regulation schemes





Further studies - what we did



2 online-surveys

Survey I:

Addressed to **190 certification bodies** in all European member states and to Switzerland, Liechtenstein...

Survey II:

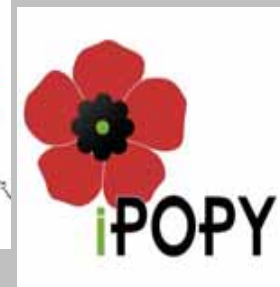
Addressed to **150 (experts)** persons who are involved in the field of Out-of-home business (civil servants, scientists, etc.)

17 questions were the same in both surveys





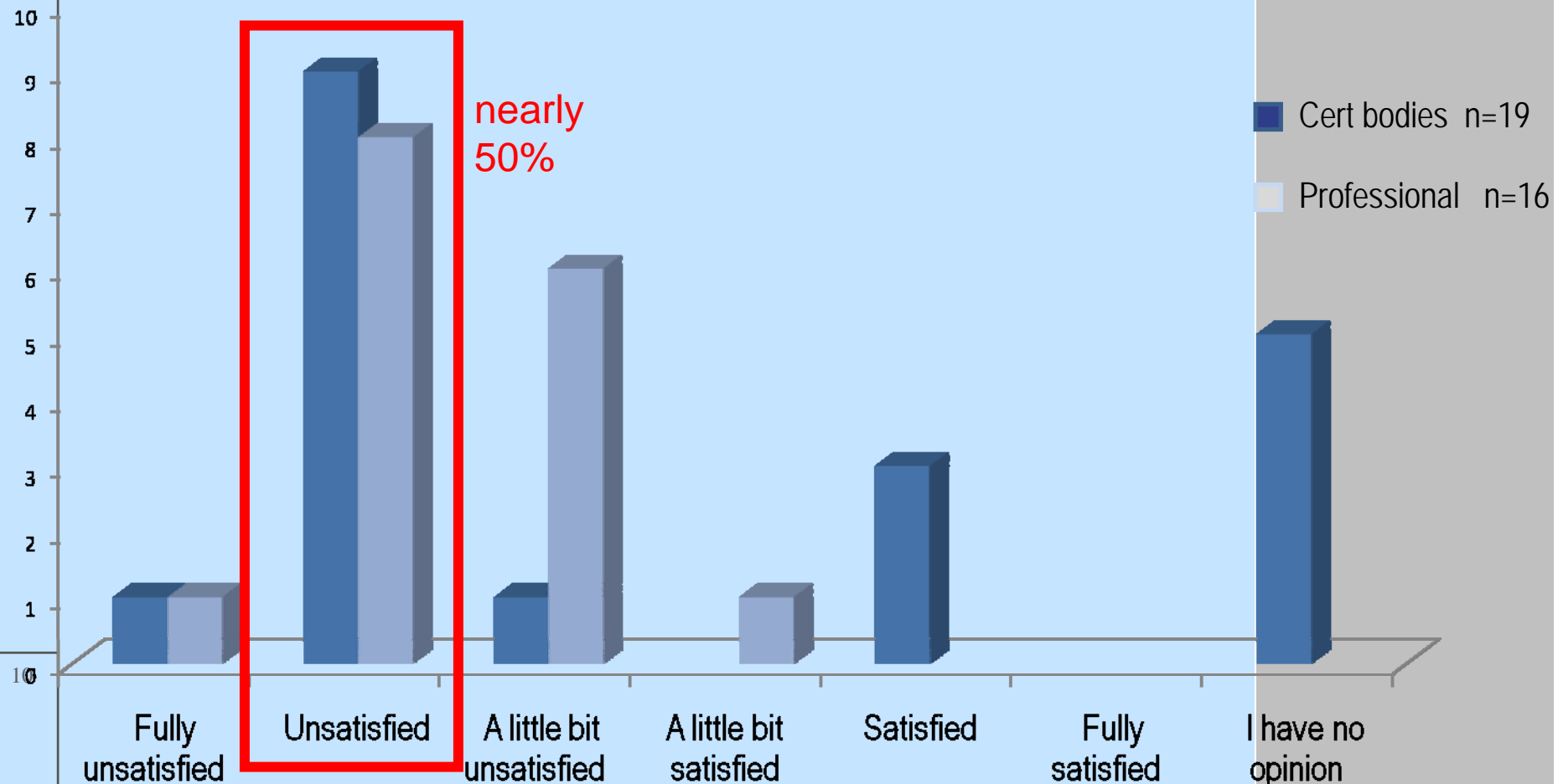
Answers came from ...





Satisfaction level about regulation

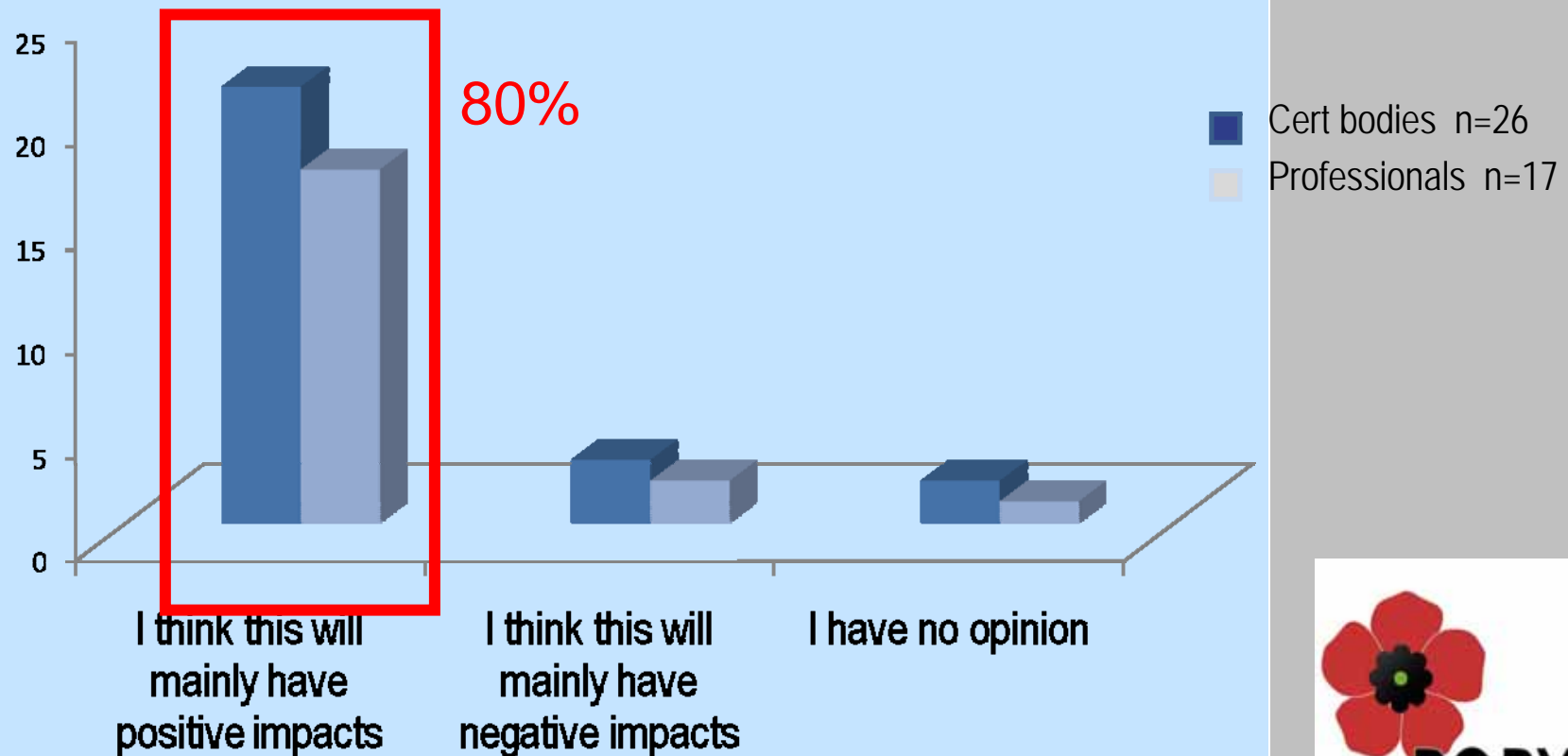
Q: How do you assess your satisfaction level with the present situation of the Organic Certification in Out-Of-Home Businesses in Europe?





Opinion on EU-wide harmonisation

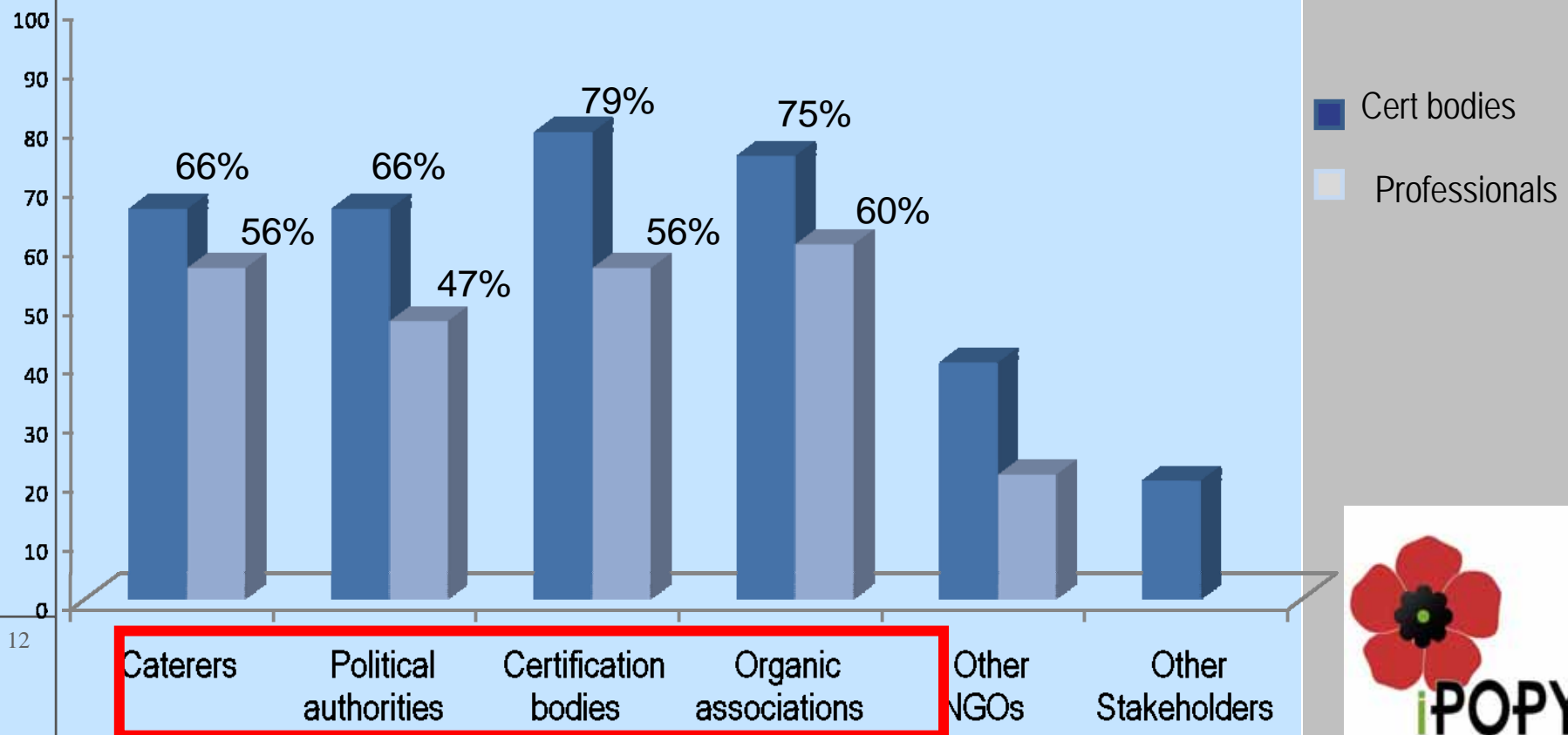
Q: What is your opinion on a possible EU-wide harmonised organic certification scheme for restaurants and catering?





Stakeholders for potential harmonisation

Q: Which stakeholders should be involved to discuss a possible future harmonisation of catering and restaurant certification in Europe?



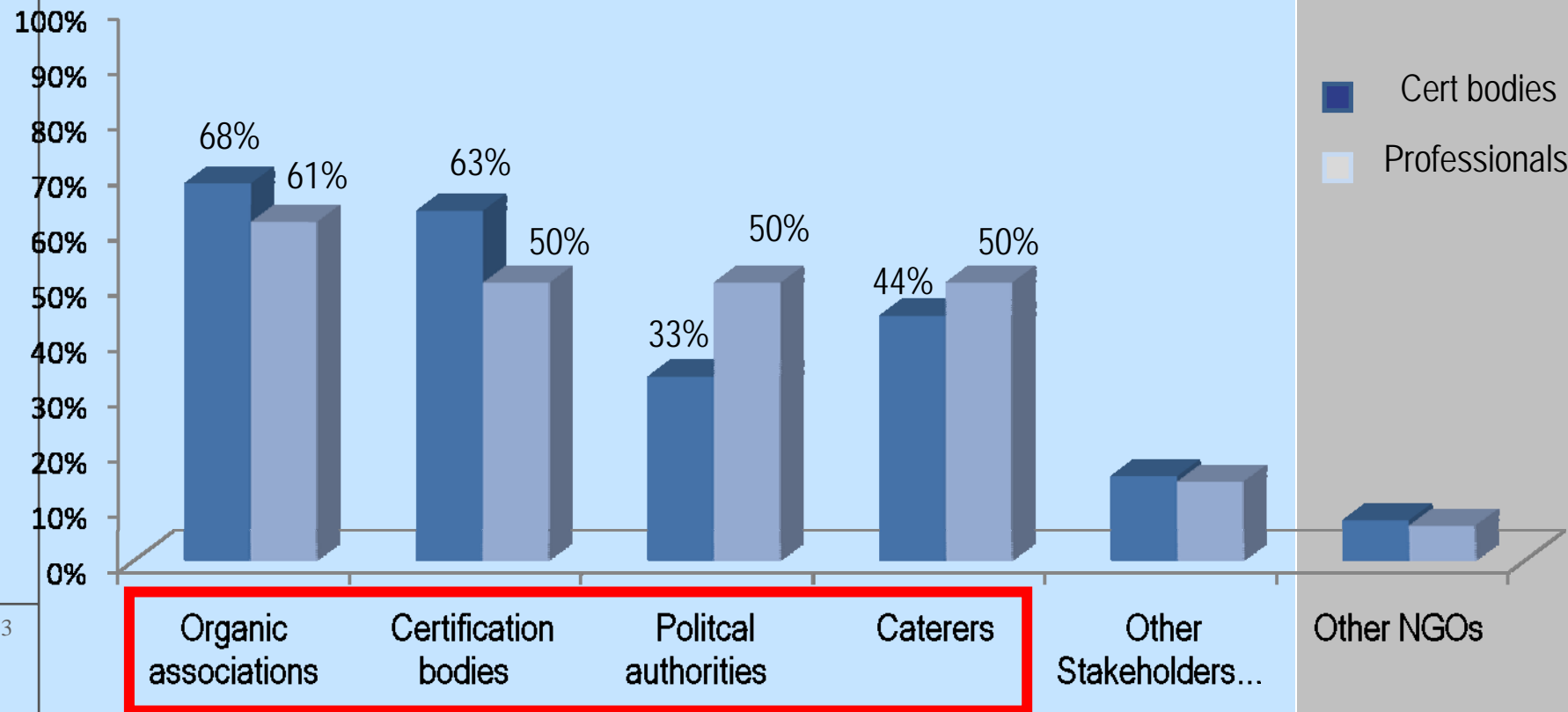
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Drivers for potential harmonisation

Q: Who do you think would be the strongest drivers in the process of a possible future harmonisation in Europe?





What are our main conclusions?

- Especially the certification bodies are **not satisfied about the different regulation systems of organic certification of mass catering** within Europe
- There is **no correlation** between the satisfaction level of the participants and the type of country regulation
- **80%** of all participants can think of **mainly positive impacts** regarding a potential EU-harmonisation
- As important stakeholders and drivers for a potential process, all important institutions i.e. **certification bodies, organic associations, caterers and political authorities**, should be involved in this process





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