



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B. Quality, Research & Innovation, Outreach
The Director

Brussels,
DdF/nb/agri.ddg1.b.4(2021)656082

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail of 1 December 2020¹ (ARES (2021)540874) by which you ask whether an organic balsamic vinegar might contain sulphur dioxide.

Organic wine used as an ingredient in the production of balsamic vinegar may contain a limited quantity of sulphur dioxide in accordance with point 7 of Annex VIIIa to Regulation (EC) No 889/2008². Sulphur dioxide cannot be added for the production of balsamic vinegar. Hence, the only sulphur dioxide that balsamic vinegar may contain is the one that was already contained in the organic wine used to produce the balsamic vinegar; consequently, the final product, balsamic vinegar, may contain sulphur dioxide.

The present opinion is provided on the basis of the facts as set out in your e-mail of 1 December 2020 and expresses the view of the Commission services and does not commit the European Commission. In the event of a dispute involving Union law it is, under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, ultimately for the European Court of Justice to provide a definitive interpretation of the applicable Union law.

Yours sincerely,



c.c.: [REDACTED]

¹ Ares(2020)7242229

² Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 of 5 September 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control (OJ L 250, 18.9.2008, p. 1–84).

