



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B. Multilateral relations, quality policy
B.4. Organics

Brussels,

██████████/ARES agri.ddg1.b.4(2016)5385879

Dear ██████████,

Thank you for your e-mail of 30 July 2016 in which you ask for the conversion period to receive an organic certificate when you start using new areas for organic production. You explain in your e-mail that the areas concerned (greenhouses) have not been used for any production the last 6 years.

As concerns plants and plant products, to be considered as organic shall the production rules referred to in Article 36(1) of Regulation (EC) No 889/2016 have been applied on the parcel, in your case the area under greenhouse, during a conversion period of at least two years before sowing. In case of grassland or perennial forage, the period is at least two years before its use as feed from organic farming, or in case of perennial crops other than forage, at least three years before the first harvest of organic products.

The competent authority in a Member State may decide, in accordance with the second paragraph of the mentioned Article, to retroactively recognize, as being part of the mentioned conversion period, any previous period in which:

"(a) the land parcels were subject of measures defined in a programme implemented pursuant to Regulations (EC) No 1257/99, (EC) No 1698/2005, or in another official programme, provided that the measures concerned ensure that products not authorized for organic production have not been used on those parcels, or

(b) the parcels were natural or agricultural areas which were not treated with products not authorized for organic production.

The period referred to in point (b) of the first subparagraph can be taken into consideration retroactively only where satisfactory proof has been furnished to the competent authority allowing it to satisfy itself that the conditions were met for a period of at least three years."

For further information, in particular related to your specific case, you might contact the competent authority in Romania. You can find the contact details below.

*Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
B-dul Carol I, nr. 2-4, 02092
Bucharest
<http://www.madr.ro>*

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The present opinion is provided on the basis of the facts as set out in your e-mail of 30 July 2016 and on the understanding that in the event of a dispute involving Union law it is, under the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union, ultimately for the Court of Justice of the European Union to provide a definitive interpretation of the applicable Union law.

Yours sincerely,

