



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B. Quality, Research & Innovation, Outreach  
**B.4. Organics**

Brussels,  
/agri.ddg1.b.4(2017)5466225

[REDACTED],  
Thank you for your email of 8 September 2017 in which you ask for how many years land should lie fallow before organic farming can begin.

Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007<sup>1</sup> lays out the rules on organic production and labelling of organic products. This regulation should be read in conjunction with Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008<sup>2</sup> which lays down detailed rules for its implementation, including production and processing rules.

Conversion periods are different depending on the type of crop or animal production of the farm. Article 36(1) of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 sets out the conversion periods during which the organic plant production rules should apply before the products may be considered as organic:

- For plants and plant products, a period of at least two years before sowing;
- For grassland or perennial forage, at least two years before its use as feed from organic farming;
- For perennial crops other than forage, at least three years before the first harvest of organic products.

I invite you to contact the relevant Competent Authority if you require any further information, a list of which is available on the following link:  
[https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/consumer-trust/certification-and-confidence/controls-and-inspections/control-system\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/consumer-trust/certification-and-confidence/controls-and-inspections/control-system_en)

You may also be interested in visiting our website which gives useful general information on the EU organic production scheme:  
[https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/index\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/index_en)

Yours sincerely,



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<sup>1</sup> [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation \(EEC\) No 2092/91, OJ L 189, 20.7.2007, p. 1–23](#)

<sup>2</sup> [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](#)