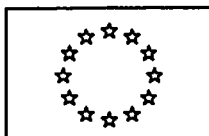


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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
Directorate H. Sustainability and quality of agriculture and rural development  
H.3. Organic farming

Brussels,

**Subject: Cork**

Dear .....

Thank you for your email of ....., in which you raise questions on whether cork can be labelled organic.

According to Article 1(2)(a) of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 live or unprocessed agricultural products may be subject to this Regulation. Agricultural products are listed in Annex I of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, where cork is mentioned.

An agricultural product can be labelled "organic", provided it is produced according to the named Regulation and the operator has submitted his undertaking to the control system.

However, according to Article 1(2)(b) of the same Regulation from those agricultural products, only processed agricultural products for use as food are covered and eligible for the organic labelling. In other words as cork products are not for food use, they are not subject to this Regulation.

To your third question, in which you ask about further Commission initiatives regarding labelling of organic products I may inform you about the recent amendment of Article 24(1)(b) and (c) of Regulation 834/2007 by Council Regulation (EC) No 967/2008 as regards the postponement of the obligatory use of the EU-Logo on pre-packed goods until 1 July 2010.

In this respect the Commission currently is launching an EU-wide competition to create a new EU-logo, which should be decided by that date.

Yours sincerely,

*signed*

**María Angeles BENÍTEZ SALAS**  
Director