



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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

Brussels,

██████████/agri.ddg1.b.4(2016)7433837

████████████████████

Thank you for your e-mail in which you request whether an operator using indoor aquaponic systems could be certified as organic under the EU organic legislative framework.

As you correctly mention, organic plant production is land-related in accordance with Article 4 (a) of Council Regulation N° 834/2007<sup>1</sup>.

Aquaponics is a type of hydroponics which according to Article 4 of Commission Regulation N° 889/2008<sup>2</sup> is a cultivation system not allowed in the production of organic plants. Thus, plants produced through hydroponics cannot be certified as organic under the EU Regulations on organic production.

On the other hand, the use of aquaponic systems for producing **aquaculture animals** is not prohibited. Therefore the production of fish in your facilities could be considered as organic only when done in compliance with the production rules set up in Article 15 of Council Regulation N° 834/2007 and Article 25a to 25t of Commission Regulation N° 889/2008.

In order to be able to certify your products as organic you should approach a control body in your Member State; accredited control bodies can be looked up on [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/consumer-trust/certification-and-confidence/controls-and-inspections/control-system\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/consumer-trust/certification-and-confidence/controls-and-inspections/control-system_en).

If you need further information on the EU organic legislation, you will also find information on our website: <http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic>.

<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 (O.J. L 189, 20.07.2007, p. 1).

<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.

████████████████████  
████████████████████  
████████████████████  
████████████████████  
████████████████████

████████████████████

The present opinion is provided on the basis of the facts as set out in your e-mail of 23 September 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 European Court of Justice to provide a definitive interpretation of the applicable Union law.

Yours sincerely,

