




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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Directorate F. Horizontal aspects of rural development
F.5. Organic farming

Brussels,
F.5/HVB/jm/D(2007) 26525
reg/subject/plant/special crops/substrates

Dear Ms. Jurcan,

Thank you for your question to my services dated 17 July.

You ask whether "hydroponics" is allowed in organic farming according to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91.

Annex I A stipulates that for plant production, the biological activity of the soil must be maintained or increased in the first instance by the cultivation of legumes, green manures or deep-rooting plants in an appropriate multi-annual rotation programme.

It is difficult to see how this principle could be applied when using the hydroponic method of growing plants, which to our understanding means that plants grow in mineral nutrient solutions or in an inert medium, such as perlite, gravel or rockwool, to which a nutrient solution is added.

Therefore I can confirm that, according to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91, "hydroponics" is not allowed in organic farming.

Yours sincerely,

Pour le Directeur Général empêché

L. HOELGAARD

Directeur Général Adjoint

Jean-Luc DEMARTY

Director General

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