



Brussels

Dear [REDACTED],

I would like to thank you for the email<sup>1</sup> 14 September 2022 containing questions about organic production.

Please find below the replies to your comments and questions related to Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council on organic production and labelling of organic products<sup>2</sup>:

**1. I find that some of the paragraphs on the legislation are quite vague or more "goal oriented" rather than actually stating a "rule". In articles 1-8 this seems to be the case. What is the purpose of this?**

Articles 1 to 3 of Chapter I of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 lay down the subject matter, the scope and definitions relevant for the organic sector. Article 2 defines which products can be certified as “organic” under the scheme. Article 3 sets important definitions such as for example what is “organic heterogenous material” or what are “aquaculture products”.

However, as you mention in your email, Articles 4 to 8 of Chapter II of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 lay down the objectives and principles of organic production. Indeed, they do not constitute precise requirements per se but are extremely important as they form the basis for the specific rules laid down further in that Regulation. As an example, under Article 4 (e), organic production aims to contribute to high animal welfare standards and, in particular, to meeting the species-specific needs of animals. Based on this objective, there are specific animal welfare rules for organic animals that are stricter than the EU horizontal rules on animal welfare.

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<sup>1</sup> Ares(2022)6581543

<sup>2</sup> [EUR-Lex - 02018R0848-20220101 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

**2. Has the EU done any polling on what people think/know about EU-Organic or is that left to the member states and/or private actors? If these have been made I'd very much like it if you sent them to me.**

Prior to any legislative proposal, the EU performs extensive consultations with the Member States and the stakeholders. Please find the relevant information at the following link:

[Better Regulation: why and how | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/better-regulation/why-and-how/)

In addition, the EU performs regularly surveys known as Eurobarometers about the Common Agricultural Policy; these surveys include targeted questions on organic farming. Please find the link to the most recent one:

<https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2665>

Kind regards

Yours faithfully,

