



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B – Sustainability
The Director

Brussels

I would like to thank you for your letter of 5 September 2022¹, in which you ask the following questions regarding pheromones in organic production:

1. If microencapsulated pheromones contained in plant protection products applied with a pneumatic sprayer or an atomiser can be authorised for use in organic production?

i. If yes, on which legal basis does it rely to justify the use of such pheromone-based plant protection products in organic production?

ii. If no, can you confirm that only pheromones used in traps and dispensers can be authorised as active substances in plant protection products for use in organic production with, at the moment, the exclusion of any other types of application techniques.

2. Can the European Commission let us know if the question of the use of microencapsulated pheromones was recently brought to the attention of the EGTOP who may assist when the "Commission needs technical advice to take decisions on the authorisation of products, substances and techniques for use in organic farming and processing in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/848"?

According to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1165 of 15 July 2021 authorising certain products and substances for use in organic production and establishing their lists², only pheromones used in traps and dispensers can be authorised as active substances in plant protection products for use in organic production (please see Annex I, 4. *Active substances not included in any of the above categories*). Therefore, at the moment, other types of application techniques for pheromones are not allowed in organic production.

DG AGRI has not raised recently this matter at any meeting of the Expert Group for Technical advice on Organic Production (EGTOP).

If you, or the stakeholder on whose behalf you sent this letter, believe that microencapsulated pheromones should be allowed in organic farming, according to

⁽¹⁾ [Ares\(2022\)6126978](#)

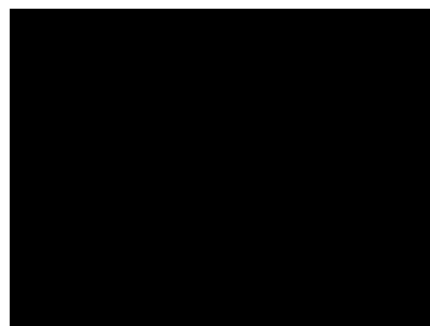
⁽²⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1165 of 15 July 2021 authorising certain products and substances for use in organic production and establishing their lists (OJ L 253, 16.7.2021, p. 13).

article 24(7) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 ⁽³⁾, you should contact one of the Member States and ask it to submit a request accompanied by a dossier⁴ to the Commission and to the other Member States.

DG AGRI will then ask EGTOP for technical advice on the possible authorisation of these substances in organic production.

The present opinion is provided on the basis of the facts as set out in your e-mail of 5 September 2022 and expresses the view of the Commission services and does not commit the European Commission. 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,



⁽³⁾ [EUR-Lex - 02018R0848-20220101 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁽⁴⁾ Templates for dossiers are available at [EGTOP dossiers \(europa.eu\)](#)