



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
**DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Directorate B. Quality, Research & Innovation, Outreach  
 Director

Brussels,  
 BD/sn/agri.ddg1.b.4(2018)2267004

Dear

Thank you for your e-mail of 6 October 2017 regarding insects as food (our reference: Ares(2017)4893702) in which you ask if insects for organic food can be imported from Canada into Italy. Please accept my apologies for the very late reply.

As explained in the meeting of the Committee on Organic Production on 30/11-1/12/2017, and following the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 on novel food<sup>1</sup>, which is applicable since 1 January 2018, all insects must be authorised under that Regulation before they can be placed on the European Union market, including novel foods imported from third countries. According to the transitional measures laid down in Article 35(2) of the Regulation, those Member States that allowed the marketing of insects in their territories before 1 January 2018 may continue to do so until a decision to authorise such products is taken in accordance with the procedure set out in that Regulation. Please note that Italy is not among those Member States that allowed the marketing of insects in their territories before 1 January 2018 and thus cannot import insects (organic or conventional) for food from Canada.

The present opinion is provided on the basis of the facts as set out in your email of 3 January 2018 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 Court of Justice of the European Union to provide a definitive interpretation of the applicable Union law.

Yours sincerely,

p.o.Nicolas VERLET  
 in absence of  
 Nathalie SAUZE-VANDEVYVER

<sup>1</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32015R2283>

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