



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

Directorate B. Quality, Research & Innovation, Outreach  
**Director**

Brussels,  
PP/nb/agri.ddg1.b.4(2018)6247543

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail of 30 August 2018 (Int. Ref. ARES(2018)4516744) asking for clarifications with respect to the need for an organic certificate on smoked salt. Please accept my apologies for the late reply.

Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007<sup>1</sup> lays down general rules on the organic production and labelling of organic products. Paragraph 2 of Article 1 of that Regulation lays down the scope or categories of products to which this Regulation applies. The referred article specifies that the organic legislation applies to agricultural products unprocessed or processed for use as food or feed.

"Salt" is not an agricultural product and thus it not covered by the scope of the organic legislation. Therefore "smoked salt" cannot be certified as organic according to the current EU legislation on organic production.

As regards the use of salt in the production of organic food, please note that according to Article 27(1)(e) of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008, salt generally used in food processing (with sodium chloride or potassium chloride as basic components) can be used in the processing of organic food.

Finally, I would bring your attention to Regulation (EU) 2018/848<sup>2</sup> on organic production, which will apply from 1 January 2021. In particular, its Article 2 provides for the scope which has been extended to certain products closely linked to agriculture listed in its Annex I and among them sea salt and other salts for food and feed. On this basis, from 1 January 2021, salt will fall under the scope of the Regulation which means that when produced in compliance with organic rules it will be potentially certified as organic.

The present opinion is provided on the basis of the facts as set out in your e-mail of 30 August 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

<sup>1</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1522227541587&uri=CELEX:02007R0834-20130701>

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 – OJ L 150, 14.6.2018 p.1

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,



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