



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

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

Brussels,  
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Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail of 9 October 2018 (Int. Ref. ARES(2018)5173283) asking for clarifications with respect to the possibility to use non-organic crushed corn cob in organic products. Please accept my apologies for the late reply.

In order to address your question, I refer to Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007<sup>1</sup>, which lays down general rules on organic production and labelling of organic products. According to Article 7(a) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 organic feed is to be produced from organic feed material, except where a feed material is not available on the market in organic form. In addition, according to Article 16 of the same Regulation, the Commission is to authorise and include in a restricted list, the products and substances that may be used as non-organic feed materials from plant, mineral or animal origin in organic production.

Annex V of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008<sup>2</sup> sets out the list of non-organic feed materials authorised in organic production. Crushed corn cob is not listed among the feed materials authorised and thus it cannot be used in the production of organic processed feed. Finally, the Commission services do not intend to authorise non-organic crushed corn cob considering the current availability of corn in organic form in the market.

Moreover, I would like to clarify that organic production is based on the respect of principles and rules covering the whole production process of a product, from farming to the processing of food or feed. Therefore, the alleged comparability of final products produced under conventional rules and organic rules, which you mention in your e-mail, is not relevant in the perspective of a potential authorisation of a non-organic agricultural ingredient or the certification of a product as organic.

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

<sup>2</sup> Commission Regulation (EC ) n° 889/2008 of 5 September 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control (OJ L 250, 18.9.2008, p. 1–84)

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

The present opinion is provided on the basis of the facts as set out in your e-mail of 9 October 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 European Court of Justice to provide a definitive interpretation of the applicable Union law.

Yours sincerely,



Nathalie SAUZE-VANDEVYVER