



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

Directorate H - Sustainability and Quality of Agriculture and Rural Development  
H.3. Organic farming

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Dear

Thank you for your e-mail dated Thursday, January 19, 2012 on the use of humic acids extracted from leonardite in organic farming. You ask if these kinds of substances are allowed in organic farming as a fertilizer or soil improver.

You also quote the EGTOP report, which states that the evaluation concerns only leonardite but not humic-like substances extracted from leonardite.

A restricted list of substances is included in Annex I to Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 of 5 September 2008<sup>1</sup>. These substances may be used- in accordance with the conditions fixed by Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and No 889/2008- as fertilizers or soil conditioners in organic production in the Union. Humic acids extracted from "Leonardite" are currently not registered in the above mentioned list.

As regards imported organic products, and only on a transitional basis, according to Article 19(1) of Regulation No 1235/2008: "...the competent authority of a Member State may authorise importers in that Member State, where the importer has notified his activity in accordance with Article 28" of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, "to place on the market products imported from third countries which are not included in the list referred to in Article 33(2) of that Regulation, provided that the importer provides sufficient evidence showing that the conditions referred to in Article 33(1)(a) and (b) of that Regulation are satisfied".

Yours sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup> O.J. L 250, 18/09/2008, p. 0001 – 0084