



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B. Quality, Research & Innovation, Outreach
Director

Brussels,
PP/nb(2019)1943378

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail of 28 January 2019 (Int. Ref. ARES(2019)473018) asking for further clarification with respect to the new provisions concerning flavourings laid down in Regulation (EU) 2018/848¹ on organic production and following my letter of 11 December 2018 (Int. Ref. ARES (2018)6976032).

First of all, as you know, [REDACTED] attended the meeting with EFFA representatives and DG AGRI Mr. Verlet, on 20 February 2019 regarding the above-mentioned letter of interpretation on flavourings (Int. Ref. ARES (2018)6976032).

Following this meeting and considering the questions included in your e-mail, I would like to confirm that:

- Only flavourings that can be labelled according to Article 16(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1334/2008² may be used in the processing of organic food products.
- The category of flavourings in Article 16(5) and 16(6) of Regulation (EC) No 1334/2008 cannot be used in the processing of organic food.
- At least 95% of the agricultural ingredients of the product by weight should be organic.

Please note that with regard to your statement “According to the basic rules, to call a product organic, the product shall be made of at least 50% of agricultural ingredients (excluding water and salt)”: there is no such provision in the organic regulation.

¹ 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)

² Regulation (EC) No 1334/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on flavourings and certain food ingredients with flavouring properties for use in and on foods and amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 1601/91, Regulations (EC) No 2232/96 and (EC) No 110/2008 and Directive 2000/13/EC (OJ L 354, 31.12.2008, p.34)

[REDACTED]

The present opinion is provided on the basis of the facts as set out in your e-mail of 28 January 2019 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. Sauze-Vandevyver', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nathalie SAUZE-VANDEVYVER