



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B. Quality, Research & Innovation, Outreach  
**B.4. Organics**

Brussels,  
IB/nb(2019)4179583

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail (Ref. [Ares\(2019\)3584735](#)) in which you are asking if cannabis could be labelled as organic according to the EU regulations.

Article 1(2) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007<sup>1</sup> lays down the scope of organic legislation, which covers products placed on the market as "live or unprocessed agricultural products", "processed agricultural products used for food", "feed" and "vegetative propagating material and seeds for cultivation".

Agricultural products are listed in Annex I to the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). Hemp (*Cannabis sativa*) is an agricultural product covered by Annex I of the TFEU. Therefore, hemp (*Cannabis sativa*) used for food or feed may be certified as organic provided that the rules on production and labelling set out in Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and Regulation (EC) No 889/2008<sup>2</sup> are complied with.

In addition, kindly note that cannabis plants may require permission for cultivation for medical, scientific, industrial or horticultural purposes<sup>3</sup>.

I would therefore recommend you to contact the competent national authorities in the Member State in which you intend to cultivate it to verify the specific conditions to be fulfilled.

You can find contact details for the competent authorities on organic farming at the following webpage:

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/farming/organic-farming/controls\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/farming/organic-farming/controls_en)

---

<sup>1</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2008 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 (OJ L 189, 20.07.2007, p.1)

<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)

<sup>3</sup> Cannabis is listed in Schedules I and IV of the United Nations 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs; its cultivation, supply and possession can be allowed only for 'medical and scientific purposes'.

[REDACTED]

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

