



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B – Sustainability

Brussels

Dear [REDACTED],

I would like to thank you for your email of 14 September¹, in which you ask several questions regarding the nutrition of organic livestock under Regulation (EU) 2018/848².

Please allow me to reply to each of your questions as follows:

Q.1 Regulation (EU) 2018/848 provides that "The competent authority shall define the criteria of slow-growing strains or draw up a list of those strains and provide this information to operators, other Member States and the Commission." (Annex II, Part II, 1.9.4.1.) Based on what criteria was this list of slow-growing strains established in the Czech Republic, and how were the lines selected for the list?

According to the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 quoted above, Member States may either define criteria of slow growing strains or establish a list of slow growing strains of poultry. The Czech Republic chose to draw up a list with the following poultry strains: Ross Rowan - Cobb Sasso 150 - Redbro S - Red JA - S 757 - JA 757 and communicated this list via OFIS to the Commission.

Q.2 Regulation (EU) 2018/848 provides that "restricted feeding shall not be permitted in livestock production unless justified for veterinary reasons" (Annex II, Part II, 1.4.1.). What is the interpretation of "veterinary reasons"? Is it possible to restrict the feed in the broiler parent stock due to the negative effect of the high body weight of the animals on reproduction (as is common in conventional farming)?

Veterinary reasons mean that the restricted feeding is necessary for the animal health and welfare of the animals and not for the sole purposes of enhancing reproductive performances.

¹ Ares(2022)7052512

² [EUR-Lex - 02018R0848-20220101 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/848/oj)



Q.3 Regulation (EU) 2018/848 provides that: “force-feeding is forbidden” (Annex II, Part II, 1.4.1. (d)).

The provisions related to the force-feeding of organic livestock that you refer to read as follows: *“(d) fattening practices shall always respect the normal nutritional patterns for each species and the animals’ welfare at each stage of the rearing process; force-feeding is forbidden”*.

This provision prohibits in particular the production of “foie gras” under the EU organic scheme; there are no exceptions to this prohibition for veterinary reasons.

The present opinion is provided on the basis of the facts as set out in the chat of the Organic Production Committee of 14 September 2022 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 faithfully,

