

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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

> Brussels MP/nb/agri.ddg1.b.4(2021)1430767

I would like to thank you for your email of 5 February 2021 (Int. reference Ares(2021)1157044), in which you request clarifications about COVID-19 derogations in relation to the certificate of inspection (COI).

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/83 provides for derogations to the Official Control Regulation to address the specific circumstances linked to the ongoing crisis related to COVID-19. This Regulation does not foresee specific derogations for the Certificate of Inspection (COI).

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1667 provides for specific derogations from Regulations (EC) No 889/2008 and (EC) No 1235/2008 as regards controls on the production of organic products due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As you rightly mention, this regulation was applicable until 1 February 2021.

Considering that the situation related to the COVID-19 crisis has not yet returned to normal, the Commission services plan to propose a new draft Amending Regulation with the purpose of extending the specific derogations as regards controls of organic products due to the COVID-19 pandemic until July 2021.

The adoption of these amendments is subject to the procedure laid down in Article 38 of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.

Yours sincerely,

