

Brussels,  
(2020)5923772

[Redacted]

*I would like to thank you for your letter of 4 September and the attached position paper of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe on immunocastration.*

*I understand your organisation is in favour of the use of immunocastration for the organic production of male pigs and would like to open the debate between Member States on this issue.*

*I would like to clarify that this issue was already debated several times in the past in the Committee on organic production where the Commission's services expressed the opinion that the use of boar taint vaccination was not compatible with organic certification under the current rules laid down in Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008. This situation will continue in the future under Regulation (EU) 2018/848.*

*This position was confirmed during the discussions between the co-legislators in the context of the negotiations preceding the adoption and the publication of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007. Indeed, in 2015, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the Commission proposal for a Regulation on organic production and labelling of organic products where some amendments aiming to authorise immunological prevention of boar taint as an alternative to the surgical castration of piglets in organic production were tabled.*

*However, the co-legislators did not retain such amendments in the final version of Regulation (EU) 2018/848, confirming therefore that the use of immunocastration is not in line with EU rules on organic production.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Janusz WOJCIECHOWSKI*

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