



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B. Multilateral relations, quality policy
B.4. Organics

Brussels,
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Dear Mr Rzytki,

Thank you for your email of 26 June 2014, in which you enquire about possible language requirements for the indications 'EU Agriculture' and 'non-EU Agriculture'.

As mentioned by Ms Muthsam, Article 15(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹ stipulates that "mandatory food information shall appear in a language easily understood by the consumers of the Member States where a food is marketed".

However, the abovementioned Regulation enters into force as of 13 December 2014. At the moment Article 16 of Directive 2000/13/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council² applies. Paragraph 1 of this Article stipulates that mandatory (labelling) particulars shall appear in a language easily understood by the consumer.

Still in Article 16, Paragraph 2: "the Member State in which the product is marketed may, in accordance with the rules of the Treaty, stipulate that those labelling particulars shall be given in one or more languages which it shall determine from among the official languages of the Community."

Sincerely yours,

João ONOFRE
Head of Unit

¹ Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on the provision of food information to consumers, amending Regulations (EC) No 1924/2006 and (EC) No 1925/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Commission Directive 87/250/EEC, Council Directive 90/496/EEC, Commission Directive 1999/10/EC, Directive 2000/13/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, Commission Directives 2002/67/EC and 2008/5/EC and Commission Regulation (EC) No 608/2004 (O.J. L 304, 22.11.2011, p. 18–63)

² Directive 2000/13/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of March 2000 of 20 March 2000 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs (O.J. L 109, 6.5.2000, p. 29)

Mr Michał Rzytki

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cc: RCOP Delegates (via Outlook)