



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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

Brussels,
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[REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail of 30 November 2020 (Int. Ref. ARES(2020)7229482) requesting a clarification about the organic production requirements concerning micro-algae.

The new Regulation (EU) 2018/848¹, refer to algae and in particular under its Annex II part III point 2 concerning requirements for algae provides for the following: *“In addition to the general production rules laid down in Articles 9, 10, 11 and 15, and where relevant in Section 1 of this Part, the rules laid down in this Section shall apply to the organic collection and production of algae. Those rules shall apply mutatis mutandis to the production of phytoplankton.”*

Considering the definition set in the European Standard EN 17399:2020 *“Algae and algae products”* where ***Algae*** are regarded as a functional group of organisms consisting of microalgae, macroalgae, cyanobacteria and Labyrinthulomycetes.”, algae include micro-algae, therefore, the organic production rules set for algae, apply also to micro-algae, which are also components of phytoplankton.

The present opinion is provided on the basis of the facts as set out in your e-mail of 30 November 2020 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,



¹ [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation \(EC\) No 834/2007 \(OJ L 150, 14.6.2018 p.1 \)](#)

