





EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

 Ref. Ares(2022)1971949 - 17/03/2022

Directorate B – Sustainability
B.4 – Organics

Brussels

 agri.b.4(2022)1898655

Dear ,

I would like to thank you for your email¹ of 28 February 2022, in which you request clarification with respect to the use of the term “pinching” in the provisions under point 3.1.6.8 of Part III of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2018/848², which read as follows: “*Eyestalk ablation, including all similar practices such as ligation, incision and pinching, is prohibited.*”

I confirm that the term is related to one of the possible practices, such as ablation, ligation, incision to eliminate the flow of hormones in female crustaceans and to finally induce ovarian development.

I understand from the considerations expressed in your e-mail that a corrigendum is not needed. Please let me know whether this is indeed the correct conclusion.

This opinion is provided on the basis of the facts set out in your letter of 28 February 2022 and expresses the opinion 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 Court of Justice of the European Union to provide a definitive interpretation of the applicable Union law.

Yours sincerely,



¹ ARES (2022)1473361

² [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 \(OJ L 150, 14.6.2018, p. 1\).](#)

