



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B – Sustainability

Brussels

Dear [REDACTED],

I would like to thank you for your email ⁽¹⁾ of 31 May 2022 regarding the possibility of producing organic de-alcoholised wine. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying.

Since 7 December 2021, de-alcoholised wine with an alcoholic strength by volume not exceeding 0,5% vol. is included in the products of the wine sector in accordance with point (l) of Article 1(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 ⁽²⁾ and Part XII of its Annex I. Section E of Part I of Annex VIII to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 includes specific oenological practices that are allowed to produce de-alcoholised wine: partial vacuum evaporation, membrane techniques and distillation.

In accordance with point 1.1 of Part VI of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2018/848 ⁽³⁾, the general production rules laid down in Article 18 of this Regulation and the rules laid down in Part VI of its Annex II apply to the products of the wine sector.

Currently, de-alcoholised wine cannot be produced organically since none of the de-alcoholisation processes listed in Section E of Part I of Annex VIII to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 are permitted in Part VI of Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 2018/848.

Point 3.4 of Part VI of Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 2018/848 states that any amendment concerning oenological practices provided for in Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 may apply to the organic production of wine only after those measures have been included as permitted in Part VI of Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 2018/848 and,

⁽¹⁾ ARES(2022)4038543

⁽²⁾ [Regulation \(EU\) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations \(EEC\) No 922/72, \(EEC\) No 234/79, \(EC\) No 1037/2001 and \(EC\) No 1234/2007 \(OJ L 347 20.12.2013, p. 671\)](#)

⁽³⁾ [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 \(OJ L 150, 14.6.2018, p. 1\)](#)

if required, after an evaluation in accordance with Article 24 of Regulation (EU) No 2018/848.

The inclusion of these practices in point 3.3 of Part VI of Annex II would be done via a delegated act in accordance with Article 18(2), point (b), of Regulation (EU) No 2018/848.

In accordance with point 2.2 of Part VI of Annex II, only products and substances authorised pursuant to Article 24 for use in organic production may be used for the making of products of the wine sector, including during the oenological practices, processes and treatments. If Member States wish to pursue the possibility of certifying de-alcoholised wine as organic, dossiers describing the specific oenological practices needed to produce organic de-alcoholised wine should therefore first be sent to the Commission and to other Member States in accordance of Article 24(7) of Regulation (EU) No 2018/848. On the basis of the technical evaluation of the expert group for technical advice on organic production (EGTOP), the services of the Commission may propose a draft delegated act in accordance with Article 18(2), point (b), of Regulation (EU) No 2018/848 in order to amend point 3.3 of Part VI of Annex II for the purpose of adding the potentially authorised oenological practices that are needed to produce de-alcoholised wine. The national experts will of course be consulted on this draft in accordance with Article 54(4) of Regulation (EU) No 2018/848.

Similar steps would need to be followed to allow the certification of partially de-alcoholised wines as organic.

The present opinion is provided on the basis of the facts as set out in your email of 31 May 2022 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,

