



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate H. Sustainability and Quality of agriculture and rural development  
**H.3 Organic Farming**  
The Head of Unit

Brussels, **30 MAY 2011**  
AGRI H.3/ MK/rm D(2011) 610714

**Subject: Sapropel**

Dear Ms Drozdovska,

Following your message of November 2010, the subsequent presentations, during the SCOF (Standing Committee on Organic Farming) meetings of January and March 2011, concerning the works of the EGTOP (Expert Group for Technical Advice on Organic Production) as well as the discussion you had with a member of the organic farming unit at the margin of the SCOF meeting of 9-10 May 2011, we would like to point out the following:

- at the plenary meeting of the EGTOP of 11 February 2011, a mandate on fertilizers and soil conditioners was discussed and agreed. This includes the examination of Sapropel. The EGTOP is expected to provide the Commission with its recommendation on this issue by June 2011.
- Article 16(1) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 describes the procedure for the authorization to use in organic production of products and substances for different purposes and includes under point (b) fertilizers and soil conditioners. Sapropel is not part of annex I of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 and can not be currently used as a soil conditioner under the organic farming legislation.

You will find more information on the works of the EGTOP at

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/eu-policy/expert-recommendations/expert-group\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/eu-policy/expert-recommendations/expert-group_en)

Yours sincerely,

Jean-François HULOT

Copy : Mr Braune, Mr Slomke (SCOF Delegates)

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