



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate H - Sustainability and Quality of Agriculture and Rural Development
H.3. Organic farming

Brussels,
AGRI H.3/SC/aj Ares (2012) 351523

Subject: Stevia

Dear Mr Robin Fransella,

Thank you for your e-mail of 2 March 2012 concerning the legal status of Stevia.

You informed us that there may be operators selling the product for use as an organic ingredient and refer to the situation that Stevia may be grown and imported as an organic product, but not used in food. You also said that, until discovering that Stevia is an unauthorised novel food, the UK had issued some authorisations for import. You also asked if the Commission could review this situation with colleagues from EFSA, with a view to issuing a working paper noting the legal situation that Stevia may not be sold as a food in the EU and that Steviol glycosides are not authorised for use in organic products.

Regulation (EC) No 258/97 on novel foods is under the responsibility of DG SANCO. This is the reason why I am sending to them this letter, in order that they can provide a reply to your question.

As regards to the possible use of Steviol glycoside as food additives in organic production, as you know a national dossier asking for the addition of Steviol glycoside to the list provided for in Annex VIII of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 has been introduced and its evaluation and possible adoption by the Group is foreseen by mid 2012. A draft proposal amending Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 may follow.

Yours sincerely,

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Head of Unit

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