



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Deputy Director General, in charge of Directorates A, B and C

Brussels,
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Subject: Leonardite-soluble humates (Ares(2017)1525228 - 21/03/2017)

Thank you for your letter of 21/03/2017 regarding the use of solubilized leonardite in organic production.

In your letter you mention that *"leonardite is a substance that can be used in organic agriculture in Europe without limitation"*. Please note that only leonardite itself (raw organic sediment rich in humic acids), and only if obtained as a by-product of mining activities, is authorised in organic production.¹

The EGTOP report mentions about "Leonardite-soluble humates", that "Since the production and processing methods and the additives and preservatives utilized were not reported in the provided dossier, the Group could not evaluate the product".

That means that Leonardite-soluble humates can only be added to Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 after a complete evaluation by EGTOP of a complete dossier submitted to the Commission, and after a decision by the Commission based on the opinion of EGTOP.

Yours sincerely,

María Angeles BENITEZ SALAS

¹ Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 889/2008

