



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B. Quality, Research & Innovation, Outreach
Director

Brussels,
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TO BE TRANSLATED INTO FRENCH

Dear Mme Jorissen,

Thank you for your letter of 30 January 2018 regarding the use of sulphites in the production of organic grape juice for a direct consumption. Please accept my apologies for the very late reply.

Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling products¹ applies without prejudice to other community provisions or national provisions, in conformity with Community law, such as provisions governing the production, preparation, marketing, labelling and control, including legislation on foodstuffs and animal nutrition.

Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 on food additives² does not allow the use of sulphites (E220 – E 228) in grape juice except for unfermented grape juice for sacramental use and concentrated grape juice for home wine-making, as per point 14.1.2 of Part E of Annex II to that Regulation. Consequently, the use of sulphites (E220 – E 228) is not allowed in the organic production of grape juice for a direct consumption.

We will clarify this issue with all Member States in a future Committee on Organic Production.

The present opinion is provided on the basis of the facts as set out in your letter of 30 January 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,

Nathalie SAUZE-VANDEVYVER

¹ Article 1(4) of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 (OJ L 189, 20.7.2007, p.1).

² Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on food additives (OJ L 354, 31.12.2008, p.16).

Mme Virginie JORISSEN
bruxelles-dfra@diplomatie.gouv.fr;