

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
THE CHAIR

Mr Janusz Wojciechowski  
Commissioner for Agriculture  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 200  
B-1049 Brussels

D 200957 06.05.2020

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Dear Commissioner,

As you are well aware after a long and complicated process, the reformed Organic Regulation (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) has been adopted in the June 2018. Even though this was a considerable achievement, the road to the improved system of Organic Production did not end there. In order for this piece of legislation to be operational, a complex system of delegated and implementing acts had to be put in place. The Commission started the work immediately and has made significant progress. However, once the discussions progressed to the most complicated topics, the need for thorough debate slowed down the process. In our view, it is crucial to ensure that the rules that will shape the future of this important sector are adopted with proper consultation of all stakeholders and with proper scrutiny from both co-legislators. Therefore, in light of the difficulties imposed by the current COVID-19 outbreak and considering that the sector needs legal stability, we consider that rushing the adoption of the delegated acts is not the most suitable solution.

In light of the above, we call on you to consider postponing the entry into application date of Organic Regulation from 1 January 2021 to a year later, 1 January 2022. This would ensure that the necessary secondary legislation is in place and Member States and the operators are given enough time to make a successful transition to the new improved system of Organic Production. Hence, we could prevent the unnecessary complications that might result from a rushed implementation.

Dear Commissioner, this is a crucial moment where we, EU Institutions, have the opportunity to show to all those interested that we are committed to improving the system of Organic production, for everyone, from EU farmers and processors, third country producers to the final consumers.

We believe that by ensuring an additional year for the adoption of this secondary legislation we can make this already strong policy even stronger and further contribute to the common goal of sustainable food production, while at the same time safeguarding and even boosting the achieved trust of the consumers and operators in the Union's Organic Production system.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norbert Lins". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Norbert LINS

CC: Ms Marija Vučković, Chair of the AGRIFISH Council  
Mr Wolfgang Burtscher, Director General of the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development