



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Director

Brussels,
LB/sn/agri.ddg1.b.4(2019)4316594

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter to Commissioner Hogan conveying your strong concerns about the lack of availability of suitable vitamin B2 for the production of organic poultry in the EU and the difficulties it creates for [REDACTED]. He asked me to reply on his behalf.

The prohibition of the use of genetically modified organisms and products produced from or by GMOs is enshrined in the EU rules on organic production. Furthermore, GMO-free production has been identified as a critical reason¹ for European consumers to purchase organic products. However, as you mentioned in your letter, Article 22(2)(g) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production² provides for the possibility to exceptionally allow the use of feed additives such as Vitamin B2 produced by GMOs when it is the only possibility available on the market. Please note that the recently adopted Regulation (EU) 2018/848³ on organic production reinforces further the prohibition of the use of GMOs since this possibility to derogate for feed additives will not exist anymore from 1 January 2021, when this new Regulation will start applying.

The availability of suitable vitamin B2 and possible alternatives for organic production were discussed several times with Member States in the Committee on organic production; I can confirm that my services, based on the above elements, stated that they did not intend to propose to grant a derogation to allow the use of Vitamin B2 produced

¹ Outcome of the public consultation carried out in 2013 of the European policy on organic agriculture

² 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)

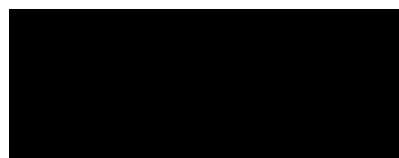
³ Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 – OJ L 150, 14.6.2018 p.1

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by GMOs in organic feed as granting such a derogation would undermine the trust of European Consumers in organic production and in the long term would affect negatively the organic market.

I am aware of the temporary difficulties faced by the feed sector and organic poultry producers on this matter but I trust suitable sources of vitamin B2 are being developed. A company notified a “fermentation product with *Ashbya gossypii*”, produced from organic substrates and naturally rich in Vitamin B2, into the Register of feed materials, which is a precondition for its placing as feed material on the EU market. In April 2019, the Animal Nutrition Section of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (“the Committee”) discussed the legal status of this biomass. As the discussions were not conclusive, the Committee will come back on the issue.

Yours sincerely,

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Nathalie SAUZE- VANDEVYVER

Contact:

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