

Client Update on Recent Changes in the EU Regulation on Organic Farming



1. Regulation (EU) 2018/848 to come into force from 1st January 2021

- ✓ After several years of discussion, the new Regulation (EU) **2018/848** was published on 30 May 2018. This Regulation will come into force from **1st January 2022 on, replacing** Regulations (EC) **834/2007**, (EC) 889/2008 and (EC) 1235/2008.
- ✓ The above-mentioned regulation is only the base standard, for which the European Parliament and the Council are responsible. Many details are yet to be defined through so-called "**delegated acts**", for which the European Commission is responsible. These acts will be defined in the course of 2019.
- ✓ CERES will inform you in due time concerning changes, which are relevant for our clients.
- ✓ For the moment, we would like to inform you only of a few changes, which have already been established in the base regulation:
 - The new Regulation defines rules for **group certification**. Meaning that in the future, group certification will be allowed not only in third countries, but also **inside the EU**.
 - Except for countries with trade agreements, the new Regulation will be binding also for third countries. **Certifiers will no longer be allowed to establish "equivalent rules" for countries outside the EU.**
 - The concept of **crops in close connection to soil** will be enforced in the new regulation. There will be only few exemptions for plants in containers.
 - Use of (non-organic) **natural flavours** will be **restricted**.
 - There will be a restricted list of **products for cleaning and disinfection** allowed in organic processing.
 - The risk-based certification approach will be further strengthened. Among others, it will be allowed to extend the interval between inspections to 24 months for very low risk operations.

2. Export / Import of Organic Products to the European Union

- ✓ Regulation (EC) **1235/2008** is now being updated regularly twice per year. This Regulation describes procedures for import of organic products from third countries, including relevant details of the TRACES system. You will find CERES approved in **Annex IV** for many countries. In **Annex III** (countries approved as having an "equivalent system"), you will find CERES approved for Chile and Tunisia.

Regulation (EU) 2018/1584 from October 2018 introduces some relevant changes to Reg. (EC) 889/08:

3. Changes regarding allowed fertilisers and plant protection products (Annexes I and II)

- ✓ **Xylite** is now approved as a soil amendment (Annex I). Xylite (not to be confused with the sugar xylitol!) is a by-product of brown coal mining. It "occurs in deposits of lignite in which pieces of wood and some fibrous tissues with different degrees of mineralisation are fossilized and relatively well preserved." Xylite can be used as a replacement for peat.

- ✓ **Garlic** (*Allium sativum*) and **Willow** (*Salix* spp.) **bark extracts** are now listed as crop protection products in Annex II. CERES had been allowing such extracts as "equivalent" in the past, now they are approved as "compliant".



- ✓ Also, **COS-OGA** is now listed as a crop protection agent. "The COS-OGA active substance consists of a complex of chitosan fragments (chitooligosaccharides, COS), which are compounds found in fungal cell walls and crustacean exoskeletons, that are associated with pectin fragments (oligogalacturonides, OGA) originating from plant cell walls" (van Aubel et al. 2014) COS-OGA **induces resistance against plant diseases**, especially powdery mildew on grapes and cucumbers. Based on this approval, CERES now also consider other **chitosan** preparations to be allowed under the equivalent standard for third countries.



- ✓ **Sodium hydrogen carbonate** (NaHCO_3 ; other names: sodium bicarbonate, baking soda, baking powder) is now allowed as a crop protection product, namely as a fungicide against mildew, powdery mildew, apple scab, and mould in stored fruits.



4. Additional substances allowed for wine making (Annex VIIIa)

- ✓ **Potato protein**, **yeast protein extracts** and **Chitosan** derived from *Aspergillus niger* are now allowed for **clarification** of wine
- ✓ **Inactivated yeast**, **autolysates of yeast** and **yeast hulls** are now allowed. This had been a grey area for a long time.
- ✓ **Yeast mannoproteins** and **Chitosan** derived from *Aspergillus niger* are also approved for **"use"** in wine making.



5. Additives for food for special consumer groups (mainly infant formulas, Art. 27(1))

- ✓ **Minerals** (trace elements included), **vitamins**, **amino acids** and **micronutrients** can now be added to food for certain groups of consumers, when this is legally required by EU law. This refers specially to **infant formulas**.

6. Cleaning of beekeeping materials

- ✓ **Sodium hydroxide** (NaOH) is now allowed for cleaning and disinfection of frames, hives and combs in organic beekeeping.



7. Derogations for livestock extended until 2020

- ✓ The derogation for buying **conventional pullets** for egg production, up to an age of 18 weeks, is extended up to 31.12.2026 – provided that organic pullets are not available
- ✓ The same for the allowance for using up to **5% conventional protein feed** of the total feed dry matter (for **pigs and poultry only**!)