



Organic beekeeping Commission notice Questions and answers

Civil Dialogue Group Beekeeping

22 April 2024

Organic legislation: beekeeping

- Consolidated version of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 already available at [EUR-Lex - 02018R0848-20220101 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)
- Summary of secondary legislation (all sectors) available at

[Legislation for the organics sector | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

- Relevant acts for beekeeping:
 - Regulation (EU) 2020/2146 supplementing on catastrophic circumstances
 - Regulation (EU) 2021/1165 authorised products and substances



Reasons for the commission notice

- Audits and national guidelines on organic production
- Provisions of point 1.9.6.5 of Part II of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2018/848 related to siting of apiaries
- apiaries shall be placed in areas which ensure the availability of the nectar and pollen sources consisting **essentially** of organically produced crops or, where appropriate, of spontaneous vegetation or non-organically managed forests or crops that are only treated with low environmental impact methods.
- the siting of the apiaries shall be such that, within a radius of 3 km from the apiary site, nectar and pollen sources consist essentially of organically produced crops or spontaneous vegetation or crops treated **with low environmental impact methods equivalent to those provided for in Articles 28 and 30 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013** which cannot affect the qualification of beekeeping production as being organic. That requirement does not apply where flowering is not taking place, or the bee colonies are dormant.
- beekeeping shall not be considered as organic when practiced in regions or areas designated by Member States as regions or areas where organic beekeeping is not practicable



Commission notice: 3 Q/A organic beekeeping

- Objective to provide answers to questions that the Commission services have received in relation to the implementation of EU rules on organic beekeeping.
- To assist national authorities and businesses in the application of these EU rules.
- Questions and answers discussed with MS delegates at the GREX on organic production
- Commission notice planned to be adopted by the end of April 2024
- Final document will be communicated to representatives of CDG on organic and apiculture

Commission notice: question 1

Question 1: Organic beekeepers must place their apiaries in areas where nectar and pollen sources consist essentially of organically produced crops or spontaneous vegetation or non-organically managed forests or crops treated with low environmental impact methods. What can be considered as low environmental impact methods, as referred to in points 1.9.6.5 (a) and 1.9.6.5 (c) of Part II of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2018/848.?

DRAFT REPLY PENDING ADOPTION

As regards the implementation of the EU rules on beekeeping in organic production in Regulation (EU) 2018/848, given that point 1.9.6.5 (c) of Part II of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2018/848 cross-refers to Articles 28 and 30 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, since 1 January 2023, each Member State must therefore assess whether the interventions programmed in its CAP Strategic Plan to support land under Articles 31, 70 and 72 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 ensure that *“spontaneous vegetation or non-organically managed forests or crops” “within a radius of 3 km around the apiculture site” are “treated with low environmental impact methods”* that do not jeopardise the organic certification of apiculture products in accordance with points 1.9.6.5 (a) and 1.9.6.5 (c) of Part II of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2018/848:

Commission notice: question 2

- **Question 2: Can producers and processors of beeswax be certified as organic operators? If yes, which detailed production rules should apply**

DRAFT REPLY PENDING ADOPTION

Beeswax is listed in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2018/848

A processor or a producer who collects organic beeswax may be certified as 'organic' in accordance with the principles and the relevant rules laid down in Regulation (EU) 2018/848 and its delegated and implementing acts.

In the absence of any EU or national production rules, it is therefore the responsibility of the competent authorities, the control authority or the control body responsible for the certification of these operators to decide on a case-by-case basis whether the operators' activity and their production methods comply with the principles laid down in Articles 5 and 6, mutatis mutandis with the principles laid down in Article 7, and with the general production rules laid down in Articles 9 to 11 of Regulation (EU) 2018/848

Commission notice: question 3

- Question 3: In which category of products as referred to in Article 35(7) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 must beeswax be classified?

DRAFT REPLY PENDING ADOPTION

beeswax is classified under category (g) of Article 35(7):

“(g) other products listed in Annex I to this Regulation or not covered by the previous categories”.

Thank you



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