



Mr Janusz Wojciechowski
European Commissioner for Agriculture
200 rue de la Loi
1049 BRUSSELS

Brussels, 8 December 2021

Dear Commissioner,

As Members of the European Parliament and of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, we hereby call out the European Commission on the upcoming-delegated act about organic salt.

While salt production in Europe is predominantly industrial and largely produced by mines, small local productions on the seaside remain and provide high-quality salt, harvested manually. This production is very small in volume and is used exclusively for human consumption. Other types of salt, mostly used in industrial productions, have a high energy-intensive process of extraction and frequently carried out with explosives.

However, according to a report published by EGTOP last summer, the European Committee for Organic Production (COP) states that a very large part of European salt production could benefit from an organic label, although, as mentioned above, their production or extraction processes cannot be regarded as environmentally friendly production. Therefore, it is not possible for small-scale coastal farmers to distinguish their entirely virtuous and environmentally friendly production from others who cannot, legitimately, fulfil the conditions laid down in the Organic Regulation.

A meeting took place on 28 September at the COP where strong reservations have been expressed on this project. Following this, a second meeting took place on 28 October, where eight Member States including Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Germany, Poland, Denmark and France indicated that it was not possible to accept all production techniques as organic labelled.

As elected members of the European Parliament and members of the Committee on Agriculture, we ask the Commission to disregard the opinion delivered by the EGTPOP Committee, which does not reflect the actual production of organic salt. Small farms, all over Europe, are a guarantee of quality, the preservation of ancestral know-how and a large source of local jobs, as the harvesting of this salt is particularly labour-intensive.

At the time of the Green Deal and the Farm to Fork strategy, the European Commission cannot let such an approach flourish. This would call into question the promotion of short supply chains and artisanal productions.

We look forward to obtaining your commitment to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Sander (EPP; France)

Alvaro Amaro (EPP; Portugal)

Eric Andrieu (S&D; France)

Benoit Biteau (The Greens; France)

Franc Bogovič (EPP; Slovenia)

Isabel Carvalhais (S&D; Portugal)

Paolo De Castro (S&D; Italy)

Salvatore De Meo (EPP; Italy)

Herbert Dorfmann (EPP; Italy)

Colm Markey (EPP; Ireland)

Marlene Mortler (EPP; Germany)

Petri Sarvamaa (EPP; Finland)

Michael Šojdrova (EPP; Czech Republic)

Simone Schmiedtbauer (EPP; Austria)

Christine Schneider (EPP; Germany)

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