



HOUSE OF LORDS
European Union Committee

House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Tel: 020 7219 4579
Fax: 020 7219 6715
euclords@parliament.uk
www.parliament.uk/lords

4 November 2020

Victoria Prentis MP
Department for Environment, Food and
Rural Affairs,
Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street,
London, SW1P 4DF

Dear Victoria,

EM COM (2020) 483 FINAL: PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATION (EU) 2018/848 ON ORGANIC PRODUCTION AS REGARDS ITS DATE OF APPLICATION AND CERTAIN OTHER DATES REFERRED TO IN THAT REGULATION

Thank you for your Explanatory Memorandum on the above proposal, which was considered by our Environment Sub-Committee on 4 November 2020.

We are concerned about the ability of Great Britain's organics producers to continue exporting their products, marketed as organic, to the EU and Northern Ireland after 1 January 2021. Please provide an update on the negotiations for a UK-EU organics equivalence agreement.

If there is no UK-EU organics equivalence agreement that results in the UK being listed in the relevant EU Regulation annex, UK control bodies will need to be recognised by the EU for this trade to continue. We would be grateful for an update on the status of the UK control bodies' applications for EU recognition, and on the Government's conversations with the European Commission regarding these applications.

The Committee continues to take an active interest in this matter and we look forward to a response in 10 working days.

I am copying this letter to Sir William Cash MP, Chair of the Commons European Scrutiny Committee; Jessica Mulley, Clerk to the Commons Committee; Les Saunders and Donald Harris in the Cabinet Office; and John Leach, Departmental Scrutiny Coordinator.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Kinnoull', with a horizontal line underneath.

Lord Kinnoull
Chair of the European Union Committee