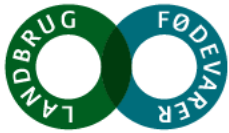


Date 20 March 2016
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**FEDERATION OF
SWEDISH FARMERS**



Commissioner Phil Hogan
Agriculture & Rural Development
European Commission

CC: Cecilia Malmström, Margrethe Vestager, Jyrki Katainen

Scandinavian organic greenhouse production is in danger

Dear Mr Hogan

We are severely concerned that the outcome of the recent discussions among the EU institutions may lead to a close down of the existing organic greenhouse production in Denmark and Sweden and Finland. Adaption of the existing production systems, based on demarcated beds, to growing plants in the subsoil or to include 80% soil from the organic holding itself or from the closest organic operator is neither physically possible nor economically feasible for the established organic producers.

The Nordic countries have a tradition of producing in demarcated beds in organic greenhouses. We have a climate with short and light summers and very long, cold and dark winters. To adapt to these conditions, the production method with growing in beds, sacks, containers, i.e. demarcated beds, has been used. This production method is traditional and has been used in greenhouses as long as there has been organic production in the Nordic countries.

There are a number of important advantages connected with the production in demarcated beds compared to the production in the subsoil:

- The risk of soil-borne diseases is significantly reduced because of the replacement of the organic growing medium recycled
- Steaming of the subsoil against soil-borne diseases can be all together avoided
- Excess irrigation water can be reused
- No loss of fertilisers to the surrounding environment from the closed growing system

Curved cucumbers and red tomatoes

Two tomatoes and a curved cucumber may form a desperate smiley, which unfortunately will illustrate very well the situation for the organic greenhouse producers in the Nordic countries, if the new organic regulations close down the existing organic production. In addition to our concerns for the organic producers, we believe that this would conflict with the general and public understanding of “Better Regulation”. We hope that the Commission will ensure a better regulation and that you will work for ensuring a continued basis for the established producers.

We will be happy to provide you with more information, if it can be helpful to you in the coming negotiations.

Sincerely

