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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the presence of non-authorised products and substances in organic products.

It is important, as you state in your letter, that the future EU legislative framework provides a clear and harmonised approach in relation to action in case of presence of non-authorised products and substances in organic production, including the cases when the presence does not stem from use by the operator or absence of appropriate measures to avoid such presence. Such harmonised approach is necessary to allow the organic sector to continue evolving and growing while reinforcing farmers' and consumers' trust. It is also necessary in order to ensure a level-playing field among organic farmers within the EU and also in relation to organic products imported from Third Countries.


I wish to thank you for your constructive and useful contribution to this debate.

I share your views that it is possible to maintain and strengthen consumer confidence without jeopardising the livelihoods of organic farmers. The Commission in its proposal to review the EU's legislative framework on organic production and labelling of organic products also included provisions concerning compensation of farmers in case of contamination of their production with substances and products that are not authorised under the EU's organic production rules.



The trilogues among the EU Institutions will be pursued in the coming months under the Presidency of Slovakia. The Commission will continue participating actively with a view to bringing the review of the organic regulation to a successful conclusion as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Phil Hogan