



**PHIL HOGAN**

MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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Brussels, 25. 04. 2017  
(2017)

*Dear Presidents and Vice-Chairman,*

*Thank you for your letter of 20 March 2017 concerning the revision of the EU legislation on organic farming, in relation to greenhouse production.*

*I have taken note of your remarks on the tradition of Nordic countries of producing in demarcated beds, as well as the advantages linked to this type of cultivation practice as compared to production in subsoil.*

*The nourishing of plants primarily through the soil ecosystem is a key principle of organic farming, as enshrined in the current organic farming Regulation (Article 5 of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007). I shall also remind you that the report on Greenhouse Production<sup>1</sup> of the Expert Group for Technical Advice on Organic Production (EGTOP) is explicit in stating that growing organic products in demarcated beds is not in line with the objectives and principle of organic farming, despite the fact that authorities in Finland, Sweden and Denmark have authorised such a practice.*

**FEDERATION OF SWEDISH FARMERS**

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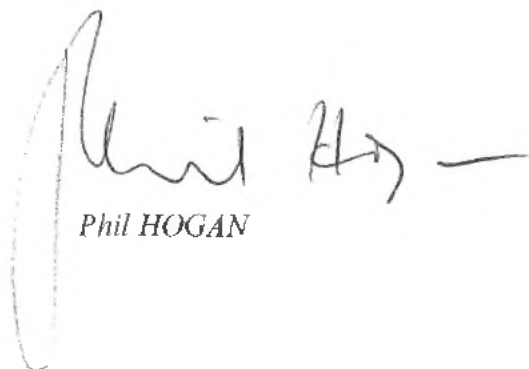
<sup>1</sup> EGTOP/6/13

[https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/sites/orgfarming/files/docs/body/final\\_report\\_egtop\\_on\\_greenhouse\\_production\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/sites/orgfarming/files/docs/body/final_report_egtop_on_greenhouse_production_en.pdf)

*Furthermore, many associations of organic farmers, processors and consumers, including Organic Denmark, do not accept demarcated beds in greenhouses as an organic practice and are arguing that demarcated beds account for a negligible part of the sector in Denmark.*

*As you are well aware, inter-institutional discussions are ongoing, and the Commission is fully committed to ensure that the new regulatory framework, in the context of the Better Regulation process you refer to in your letter, brings about real value-added for the organic sector along the whole chain, while not compromising on a level-playing field for all Member States across the EU.*

*Yours sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Hogan', followed by a horizontal line.

Phil HOGAN