Council of the European Union

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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Regulation amending the organic farming regulation as regards rules on production, labelling, certification and trade *- Preparation for the trilogue*

1. Three **interinstitutional technical meetings** have taken place on the 22nd and 25th of September and the 1st of October and two more are planned for the 13th and 15th of October. These resulted in agreement on many of the rows at the technical level, at least in principle. The **trilogue**, scheduled for the 20th of October, should be able to endorse the outcome of the technical level discussions and to find an agreement on the more political points between the Council and the European Parliament so that the regulation can be adopted and published in the official journal by the end of the year following the required time for legal/linguistic revision.

2. Among others, the EP has indicated during the discussions a willingness in principle to accept sensitive points for the Council such as the deletion of the 5% exemption for processed products to comply with the requirements of Annex VII in order to carry the EU organic logo (row 52); the points on surface areas of poultry houses (row 96); the extension of the protein feed derogation (rows 78a to 78g, 78j, 89d to 89j, 91a to g), including the possibility to use non organic aquaculture juveniles when organic ones are not available (rows 97-97c); subject to clarification that this will be done only for the aquatic species for which it is needed, the provisions on mixed grazing (rows 83g to 83i), subject to the deletion of the word “adequately” before the word “segregated to ensure legal clarity; and the provisions and thresholds for simplifying certification requirements for small operators, subject to some technical/legal amendments on the inclusion of online sales and the fact that the lower threshold will apply as already stipulated in the Council mandate (rows 68, 69, 69 a and b, 70, 70a, 70b, 71, 72, 72a and b, 73, 74, 74, 76, 77, 77c and d).

3. For its part, the Presidency has provisionally indicated the possible acceptance by the Council of issues that do not deviate markedly from our mandate, such as the clarification that the provisions will cover online sales (in row 41b but not in rows 47 and 77b); the option for Member States to include a link to their certification website to their TRACES database (row 67a); the publication by the Commission of best practices (row 42a) for avoiding contamination of organic products; and the exemption of greenhouses from the obligation to cultivate leguminous crops for soil improvement when they do so by other means (78n).

4. In the same spirit, the Presidency proposes that the Council consider accepting the EP's suggestions for the "in conversion" provisions in rows 41d and 105a, dropping at the same time its own provisions on "in conversion labelling" in rows 45 and 47 that, following legal advice, are not really necessary; the EP’s amendment on line 60a on the clarification of the use of the EU logo for educational purposes; and the EP’s amendment on Commission empowerments to amend Annex VII (row 67) and to restrict imported products under equivalence (row 78h),both subject to legal revision.

5. At the same time, the Presidency is resisting the EP's request to include the possibility to use so-called innovative housing practices (rows 41c and 89a to 89c), which are not clearly defined, as well as other EP's amendments on plant reproductive material (rows 41a, 41e and 78m), and the removal of the "electrodialysis" oenological practice from the list of prohibited ones (raw 102a).

6. Based on the above, the political issues still outstanding that might need to be brought forward and discussed at the trilogue, unless resolved before at the technical level, are:

   a) The duration of the extension of the equivalence agreement where the EP proposes that it should only apply for 5 instead of 10 years as provided in the Council mandate (row 78).

   b) The EP's proposal to review the Regulation and submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council, first by 31 December 2030, and every seven years thereafter (row 78k) and the related provision for reporting to the European Parliament and the Council on the state of the negotiations on the conclusion of trade agreements with the eleven third countries recognised by 31 December 2028 (row 78i).

   c) The obligatory indication of the country of origin (row 52a) and the size of font (row 52b) of some compulsory indications currently provided for in paragraph 1 of Article 32 of Regulation 2018/848.

   d) The provision included in the Council mandate that national/private logos cannot be used when the requirements to use the EU logo are not fulfilled (row 65).

7. To note that the references to rows quoted above refer to those of the four-column document annexed to document 14207/26. The Presidency invites the SCA to **provide guidance and indicate flexibility especially regarding the outstanding political issues identified in paragraph 6** at its meeting on 12 October 2026. This will be important in order to reach an agreement before the end of 2026.