



# Organic Plant Reproductive Material: toward phasing out of derogations by 2036



**DG Agriculture and Rural Development**  
**Unit B.4, Organics**

**Liveseeding Horizon Europe**  
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# Regulation (EU) 2018/848: THE ADDED VALUE on PRM



## New Objectives on PRM

- Contribute to the development of the supply of plant genetic material adapted to the specific needs and objectives of organic agriculture
- Contribute to a high level of biodiversity in particular by using diverse plant genetic material such as organic heterogeneous material and organic varieties suitable for organic production
- Fostering the development of organic plant breeding activities in order to contribute to favourable economic perspectives of the organic sector

## Main new relevant provisions :

- Organic varieties and organic heterogeneous material
- Detailed provisions on derogations for use of non-organic plant reproductive material (phase out by 31 December 2036)
- Labelling of in-conversion plant reproductive material and of fodder mixtures
- Extension of scope of national databases on organic and in-conversion plant reproductive material ( inclusion vegetative propagating material)
- Regulation (EU) 2021/1189 on production and marketing of organic heterogeneous material



# Collection of national data on availability on the market of in-conversion and organic PRM

- 1. Each Member State shall ensure that a regularly updated database is established for the listing of the organic and in-conversion plant reproductive material, excluding seedlings but including seed potatoes, which is available on its territory.
- 2. Member States shall have in place systems that allow operators that market organic or in-conversion plant reproductive material.... and that are able to supply them in sufficient quantities and within a reasonable period, to make public **on a voluntary basis**, free of charge, together with their names and contact details, information on the following:
  - (a) the organic and in-conversion plant reproductive material, such as plant reproductive material of organic heterogeneous material or of organic varieties suitable for organic production, excluding seedlings but including seed potatoes, which is available; the quantity in weight of that material; and the period of the year of its availability; such material shall be listed using at least the Latin scientific name;
- LINKS to the databases: [Organics references - Agriculture and rural development](#)
- [European Commission - Agriculture - OFIS - National Databases](#)

# Report national data on availability and derogations

- 6. By 30 June of each year, Member States shall make available to the Commission and to the other Member States: (a) information provided in the database referred to in Article 26(1) and in the systems referred to in Article 26(2) and, if relevant, in the systems referred to in Article 26(3); (b) information on the derogations granted in accordance with point 1.8.5 of Part I of Annex II .....
- 7. By ►M3 31 December 2026 ◀, the Commission shall present a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the availability on the Union market of and, if relevant, on the causes of limited access to: (a) organic plant reproductive material;.....
- In drawing up that report, the Commission shall take into account, in particular, the data collected in accordance with Article 26 and the information relating to the derogations and the authorisations referred to in paragraph 6 of this Article

## Commission empowerment on derogations

- 2. From ► M3 1 January 2029 ◀, based on the conclusions as regards availability of organic plant reproductive material .... presented in the report provided for in paragraph 7 of this Article, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 54 amending this Regulation by: (a) ending the derogations referred to in point 1.8.5 of Part I of Annex II .....at an earlier date than ► M3 31 December 2036 ◀ or extending them beyond that date;

# Where we are?

- Draft Commission Report to European Parliament and Council is under preparation :
- MS have in place national databases/systems but varied
- Data reported on availability limited quantitatively
- Data on derogations (individual and general)
- Implementation of Provisions of point 1.8.5.6. of Part I Annex II of Reg (EU) 2018/848 = list of crops for which sufficient in-conversion and organic material is available hence not derogable
- and 1.8.5.7. = list of crops concerned by general derogations

OFIS where the links to the lists are publicly available :

[European Commission - Agriculture - OFIS - National Databases](#)

# Organic heterogeneous material

- Until May 2026 there have been 66 notifications of listed organic heterogeneous material by 11 Member States (CZ, DK, DE, FR, IT, HU, NL, AT, PL, PT, SI).
- mainly cereals and horticultural crops as follows: *Zea mays* (15), *Triticum aestivum* (14), *Triticum durum* (7) *Triticale* spp (1) , *Secale cereale* (5), *Allium fistulosum* (1), *Beta vulgaris* spinach beet (1), *Capsicum annum* (1), *Cucurbita pepo*(2), *Cucumis melo* (1), *Helianthus annuus* (2) *Phaseolus vulgaris*(4) *Phaseolus coccineus*(1), *Lactuca sativa* (1), *Solanum melongena* (1), *Solanum lycopersicum* (2), *Vicia faba* (3), *Raphanus sativus* (2), *Pisum sativum* (1) *Hordeum vulgare* (1).

# Organic varieties

- Commission Implementing Directives 2022/1647 and 2022/1648 introduced a certain flexibility of implementation of the uniformity standards of the Distinctness Uniformity Stability (DUS) protocols for organic varieties of barley, maize, rye, wheat, carrot and kohlrabi.
- Member States should report, to the Commission and the other Member States, by 31 December of each year, until 31 December 2030, on the number of applications and results of the organic DUS and VCU examinations performed in compliance with the above-mentioned Directives, in order to ensure the regular review of those requirements and further assess the need to amend, remove or also apply them to other species.
- From the data collated so far only a few Member States reported to the Commission Services on the breeding of organic varieties: only 2 Member States reported a total of 8 applications concerning 7 *Triticum aestivum* varieties and 1 for *Hordeum vulgare*.
- As there are no registered organic varieties yet in the EU, organic seed and other PRM marketed in the Union is seed/PRM produced under organic conditions but belongs to registered varieties that may have not been bred under organic conditions - No organic variety is registered in EU common catalogue to now

## Next steps

- Finalisation of the Commission report and identification of measures to improve harmonisation in view of phase out of derogations
- Need for a comprehensive study to assess the potential impacts of total/gradual phase out of derogations ( e.g. general derogations)
- Propose a Focused working group with MS to share best practices put in place to phase out derogations (e.g. cat 1 crops for which organic PRM is sufficiently available)
- Identify relevant measures to increase availability and use of organic PRM to be included in future organic action plan ( e.g. advisory services on organic PRM )



# Organic webpage for more information

- Legislation overview available at:

[Legislation for the organics sector | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

- Clarifications on rules are available at:

[Organic rules – frequently asked questions](#)

## **2) Are seedlings plant reproductive material?**

Yes. "Seedlings" are young plants originating from seeds and not from cuttings. They fall under the definition of PRM in Article 3, point (17), of Regulation (EU) 2018/848.

## **3) May "seedlings of Christmas trees" certified organic in one Member State be marketed as organic in another Member State?**

Yes. Seedlings of Christmas trees are PRM within the meaning of Article 3, point (17), of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 when they are used to produce small Christmas trees. This is because Article 3(17) defines PRM *plants and all parts of plants, including seeds, at any stage of growth that are capable of, and intended for, producing entire plants*" (emphasis added).

As a result, seedlings of Christmas trees that are certified as organic in one Member State must be recognised and accepted for production of organic Christmas trees in all other Member States.



Thank you for your attention!

[https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/farming/organic-farming\\_en](https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/farming/organic-farming_en)