



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
Directorate H - Sustainability and Quality of Agriculture and Rural Development  
H.3. Organic farming

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**Subject: Organic rennet**

Dear Mr Paesano,

Thank for your email dated 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011 in which you raise questions on the possibility of organic rennet production under Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.

Article 1(2)(b) covers "Processed agricultural products for use as food". Rennet is a complex of food enzymes, which fall under the definition of food in Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002.

However, "organic rennet" can only be labelled as such, if the rennet is derived from organic agricultural products such as extracts of the stomachs of organic calves (livestock) and provided the processing and labelling otherwise complies with Regulations (EC) No 834/2007 and (EC) No 889/2008.

Rennet derived from a non-organic agricultural product cannot be labelled organic.

The above mentioned information is provided on the basis that in the event of a dispute arising on the meaning of a provision of EC Law it is, under the European Treaties, ultimately for the Court of Justice to provide a definitive interpretation.

Yours sincerely,

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