



Working for organic farming in Europe

International Federation of
Organic Agriculture Movements –
EU Regional Group

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M Jean-Francois Hulot
Head of Unit, Organic Farming
DG Agriculture F.5
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Dear Jean-Francois

Acids for salt bath treatment in cheese production

We ask your attention for a serious problem in the extension of Annex VI for products of animal origin, which comes into force on 1st December.

In the extension of Annex VI, no acids are specified as processing aids for salt bath treatment in cheese production. The expert group that advised the Commission identified this problem and recommended adding "lactic acid" and "citric acid" as processing aids for salt bath treatment.

There are two important aspects we want to bring forward.

1. It is vital that there is no legal uncertainty whether an acid for buffering the pH-value in a salt bath for cheese production is a processing aid or not. We ask you to check this very carefully, because lack of such clarity can lead to a situation where one EU member state considers it as a processing aid, whilst another does not.
2. Assuming the Commission accepts the advice of the expert group and includes lactic and citric acids as processing aids for salt bath treatment in cheese production, then it is necessary to give a derogation on the use of other acids for two years. In certain countries, the dairy industry traditionally uses other acids than these. It takes considerable research and time for an individual company which uses other acids to convert their processing system for salt bath treatment, for reasons of product-quality and hygienic conditions.

I hope you will be able to take this request into account.

With best wishes
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francis Blake', with a horizontal line underneath.

Francis Blake
President