



Working for organic farming in Europe

International Federation of
Organic Agriculture Movements –
EU Regional Group

President: Francis Blake

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Isabelle PEUTZ
Head of Unit
Rue de la Loi, 130
B-1049 Brussels

Dear Isabelle,

Sodium carbonate in Annex VI B and Potassium bicarbonate in Annex II B

During its last meeting in Poland in June, the IFOAM EU Group discussed two technical issues concerning Annex VI B (Sodium carbonate) and Annex II (Potassium bicarbonate).

Sodium carbonate

The use of Sodium carbonate as processing aid for organic foods has been discussed by the IFOAM EU Group several times. We have evaluated technical dossiers on this and have concluded that it is acceptable as a processing aid in organic starch production and in the preparation of organic oils. This is also consistent with the IFOAM Basic Standards which accept this substance as processing aid in general, i.e. without any restriction.

Therefore the IFOAM EU Group asks for the inclusion of Sodium carbonate in Annex VI B of the EU Regulation 2092/91 as processing aid for starch and oil production.

As a further step, which we realise may have to wait, we recommend to re-consider Sodium carbonate's specific restrictions. In line with IFOAM, we suggest these are not necessary: it could be considered for a wider use as processing aid in foods generally, including both animal and plant products.

Potassium bicarbonate

The IFOAM EU Group discussed as well the use of Potassium bicarbonate as a fungicide, based on the evaluation matrix from the Organic Inputs Evaluation Project and a summary of the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL). There are a number of advantages to use this substance: it has the potential to replace copper and sulphur, and it is safe for humans and the environment.

The only critical point is that Potassium bicarbonate has to be synthesised for a commercial use. However, it is a simple inorganic



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reaction. Therefore we see this substance as being in line with the new criteria of the new Council regulation EC/834/2007 and propose to include “Potassium bicarbonate” in Annex II B (or its replacing implementing rule).

We would be happy to provide you with more information on both these substances, through our network of experts from the private sector, if needed.

Thank you for taking our comments into account

With best wishes
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis Blake". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

/Francis Blake, President/