

**Question for written answer P-007314/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
John Flack (ECR)

Subject: Use of citric acid in organic farming as laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 and the associated Register of Feed Additives

Organic operators in the East of England are struggling to raise pigs in full compliance with the organic system as their livestock have access to the outdoors and are therefore naturally exposed to sources of salmonella in their environment that are not easy to control. Traditional and best practice to treat salmonella in these conditions is by adding citric acid to the water supply. However, I understand that the abovementioned regulation does not permit the use of citric acid in water and that it can only be added in feed as per Annex VI to Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008.

In this case, adding citric acid in feed is a much less efficient vehicle for treating the animals. Can the Commission therefore explain why the most effective method of delivery, that of adding citric acid in water, is currently prohibited?

I understand citric acid is pending re-authorisation as a feed additive by the Commission and a number of changes to its use, including potential use as an acidity regulator in water, is being considered. Can the Commission confirm that is indeed the case, and will the Commission take into account the opinion of organic operators, as described above?