

**Question for written answer E-002255/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Mazaly Aguilar (ECR)

Subject: Hydroponic crops and organic certification

Hydroponics is a way of growing crops that uses no soil – only water and nutrients. The use of hydroponic crops has become more popular in Spain in recent years, particularly in the fruit and vegetable sector, as evidence of the producing sector's commitment towards greater environmental and economic sustainability. However, Regulation (EU) 2018/848 on organic production does not authorise organic certification for hydroponic crops, although it does provide for temporary derogations for certain countries. Against this background:

1. Does the Commission consider that hydroponic crops can contribute to more sustainable farming in line with the objectives of the 'Farm to Fork Strategy'?
2. In the context of the new organic farming plan, does the Commission support the promotion of hydroponic crops and their potential inclusion in organic farming? Is the Commission in favour of extending the derogation already enjoyed by countries such as Finland or Denmark to other Member States?
3. Outside the EU, many third countries award the organic label to hydroponic crops. How does the Commission intend to address this lack of reciprocity between the demands on European producers and those of third countries?