

**Question for written answer E-005098/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Pierre Karleskind (Renew)

Subject: Organic labelling for shellfish farming

Certified organic shellfish farmers in northern Brittany are concerned about the entry into force on 1 January 2022 of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 on organic production and labelling of organic products. This Regulation makes it more difficult to obtain organic certification as the water quality criteria are stricter. Compliance with these requirements depends not on the shellfish farming businesses but on the environment in which they operate.

These businesses have to contend with an absence of reliable data, which makes it difficult to determine the water quality. Because of this, 70% of shellfish farming areas in northern Brittany would be excluded from possible organic certification. Moreover, a number of businesses that have already been certified are going to lose their label as of 1 January 2022.

In order to avoid this situation, would it be possible for the Commission to postpone the application of point 3.1.3.2(b) of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2018/848 concerning the growing at sea of bivalve molluscs that feed solely on natural plankton?

Does the Commission believe that the criteria laid down in point 3.1.3.2(b) of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2018/848 for the certification of bivalve mollusc production are appropriate?