

**Question for written answer E-001062/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Organic salt – transparent criteria, indicators and communication as a guarantee of sustainable production/extraction

Regulation (EU) 2018/848 proposes organic certification for 'sea salt and other salts used in food and feed'.

The final EGTOP report (2021) considers almost all the methods currently used to produce salt to be compatible with organic certification, including those with a high environmental impact (continuous mining, solution mining, vacuum techniques).

Farmed salts, including sea salt, have characteristics compatible with organic farming. Mined salt extraction, on the other hand, can have adverse consequences in terms of pollution, the use of chemicals, geological failure, and intensive energy and water use.

If the Commission were to consider all salt production processes to be organic, this could be out of step with the objectives of the Green Deal and weaken transparency for consumers.

In the light of the above, can the Commission state whether:

1. It will factor into the equation the type of production process, the use of chemicals, CO₂ emissions and the use of fossil fuels, thereby encouraging producers to make the energy and environmental switch in their production processes?
2. It intends to view the extraction and exploitation of salt as a sustainable activity, and if so what criteria will it apply?
3. It will ensure transparent communication to consumers on the production methods used?

Supporter¹

¹ This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Rosa D'Amato (Verts/ALE)