Question for written answer E-001488/2022 to the Commission Rule 138 Sara Cerdas (S&D)

Subject: Organic salt production and labelling

Regulation (EU) 2018/848 on organic production and labelling of organic products, which includes within its scope 'sea salt and other salts used for food and feed', defines organic production as 'a sustainable management system'.

Producer associations and other organisations in Portugal's sea salt and natural brine salt sector have voiced their concerns about the Commission's acceptance of the content of a report by the expert group for technical advice on organic production (EGTOP). In the organisations' view, the report, entitled 'Organic sea salt and other salts for food and feed – Final Report' and published in August 2021, introduces methods which are not organic, have a negative impact on the environment and run counter to the principles laid down in Regulation (EU) 2018/848. Taking into account the importance of sea salt and natural brine salt products as organic production methods:

- 1. Given the environmental impact of mined salt and vacuum (forced evaporation) salt, what is the Commission's justification for labelling those products as organic?
- 2. What will the Commission do to promote and support producers of genuinely organic salt?