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To: COMP H6 <COMP-H6@ec.europa.eu>
Subject: HT.5788_Reply_Che_a_citizen

Add support for organic farming in the Agricultural Exemption Regulation

The European Commission proposes to **amend the ABER** (Agricultural Block Exemption Regulation)¹ to add to it, in particular aid to compensate for the additional costs incurred by agricultural production in Natura 2000 areas. **The payments for environmental services for organic farming should also be added.** The European Commission has already declared compatible with the internal market under the agricultural guidelines the **payments for environmental services (PES) for organic farming notified by [Eau de Paris](#).**

Building on this experience, the European Commission should therefore use its powers to **exempt from the obligation to notify** State aid intended either to **compensate for the additional costs and losses to gain from organic farming which protect the environment**, or to reward the benefits of organic farming by means of a **payment for organic environmental service (organic PES)**. But a flat-rate scheme may also be possible.

Thanks to this exemption from notification, local authorities such as:

Water agencies, regional or departmental councils and town halls will easily be able **to sustain support for organic farming in the long term and thus contribute to the objective of 25 % organic UAA by 2030.**

It is essential to create this instrument in order to compensate for the shortcomings identified, in particular where the allocation of CAP aid does not meet the target of 25 % organic UAA in 2030 (as is the case in France for the period 2023-2027).

Please take into account my contribution ¹ Communication from the European Commission on the approval of the draft content of the ABER Regulation: https://ec.europa.eu/competition-policy/document/download/175cdc88-322e-4546-949b-7b6dbac1ad24_en

² Article 29 of that communication.

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