

- (17) 'plant reproductive material' means plants and all parts of plants, including seeds, at any stage of growth that are capable of, and intended for, producing entire plants;
- (18) 'organic heterogeneous material' means a plant grouping within a single botanical taxon of the lowest known rank which:
- (a) presents common phenotypic characteristics;
 - (b) is characterised by a high level of genetic and phenotypic diversity between individual reproductive units, so that that plant grouping is represented by the material as a whole, and not by a small number of units;
 - (c) is not a variety within the meaning of Article 5(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 2100/94 ⁽¹⁾;
 - (d) is not a mixture of varieties; and
 - (e) has been produced in accordance with this Regulation;
- (19) 'organic variety suitable for organic production' means a variety as defined in Article 5(2) of Regulation (EC) No 2100/94 which:
- (a) is characterised by a high level of genetic and phenotypic diversity between individual reproductive units; and
 - (b) results from organic breeding activities referred to in point 1.8.4 of Part I of Annex II to this Regulation;
- (20) 'mother plant' means an identified plant from which plant reproductive material is taken for the reproduction of new plants;
- (21) 'generation' means a group of plants constituting a single step in the line of descent of plants;
- (22) 'plant production' means production of agricultural crop products including harvesting of wild plant products for commercial purposes;
- (23) 'plant products' means plant products as defined in point (6) of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009;
- (24) 'pest' means a pest as defined in Article 1(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽²⁾;
- (25) 'biodynamic preparations' means mixtures traditionally used in biodynamic farming;
- (26) 'plant protection products' means the products referred to in Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009;
- (27) 'livestock production' means the production of domestic or domesticated terrestrial animals, including insects;
- (28) 'veranda' means an additional, roofed, uninsulated, outdoor part of a building intended for poultry, the longest side usually being equipped with wire fencing or netting, with an outdoor climate, natural and, where necessary, artificial illumination, and a littered floor;
- (29) 'pullets' means young animals of the *Gallus gallus* species that are of an age of less than 18 weeks;
- (30) 'laying hens' means animals of the *Gallus gallus* species that are intended for the production of eggs for consumption and that are of an age of at least 18 weeks;
- (31) 'usable area' means usable area as defined in point (d) of Article 2(2) of Council Directive 1999/74/EC ⁽³⁾;
- (32) 'aquaculture' means aquaculture as defined in point (25) of Article 4(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽⁴⁾;
- (33) 'aquaculture products' means aquaculture products as defined in point (34) of Article 4(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013;

⁽¹⁾ Council Regulation (EC) No 2100/94 of 27 July 1994 on Community plant variety rights (OJ L 227, 1.9.1994, p. 1).

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on protective measures against pests of plants, amending Regulations (EU) No 228/2013, (EU) No 652/2014 and (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Directives 69/464/EEC, 74/647/EEC, 93/85/EEC, 98/57/EC, 2000/29/EC, 2006/91/EC and 2007/33/EC (OJ L 317, 23.11.2016, p. 4).

⁽³⁾ Council Directive 1999/74/EC of 19 July 1999 laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens (OJ L 203, 3.8.1999, p. 53).

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1954/2003 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2371/2002 and (EC) No 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC (OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 22).

- (34) 'closed recirculation aquaculture facility' means a facility on land or in a vessel where aquaculture takes place within an enclosed environment involving the recirculation of water and which depends on permanent external energy input to stabilise the environment for the aquaculture animals;
- (35) 'energy from renewable sources' means energy from renewable non-fossil sources such as wind, solar, geothermal, wave, tidal, hydropower, landfill gas, sewage treatment plant gas and biogases;
- (36) 'hatchery' means a place for the breeding, hatching and rearing through the early life stages of aquaculture animals, in particular finfish and shellfish;
- (37) 'nursery' means a place where an intermediate aquaculture production system is applied between the hatchery and grow-out stages. The nursery stage is completed within the first third of the production cycle, with the exception of species undergoing a smoltification process;
- (38) 'water pollution' means pollution as defined in point (33) of Article 2 of Directive 2000/60/EC and in point (8) of Article 3 of Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽¹⁾, in the waters to which each of those Directives applies;
- (39) 'polyculture' means the rearing in aquaculture of two or more species, usually from different trophic levels, in the same culture unit;
- (40) 'production cycle' means the lifespan of an aquaculture animal or alga, from the earliest life stage (fertilised eggs, in the case of aquaculture animals) to harvesting;
- (41) 'locally grown species' means aquaculture species which are neither alien nor locally absent species within the meaning of points (6) and (7), respectively, of Article 3 of Council Regulation (EC) No 708/2007 ⁽²⁾, as well as the species listed in Annex IV to that Regulation;
- (42) 'veterinary treatment' means all courses of a curative or preventive treatment against an occurrence of a specific disease;
- (43) 'veterinary medicinal product' means a veterinary medicinal product as defined in point (2) of Article 1 of Directive 2001/82/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽³⁾;
- (44) 'preparation' means the operations of preserving or processing of organic or in-conversion products, or any other operation that is carried out on an unprocessed product without altering the initial product, such as slaughtering, cutting, cleaning or milling, as well as packaging, labelling or alterations made to the labelling relating to organic production;
- (45) 'food' means food as defined in Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽⁴⁾;
- (46) 'feed' means feed as defined in point (4) of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002;
- (47) 'feed materials' mean feed materials as defined in point (g) of Article 3(2) of Regulation (EC) No 767/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽⁵⁾;
- (48) 'placing on the market' means placing on the market as defined in point (8) of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002;
- (49) 'traceability' means the ability to trace and follow food, feed or any product referred to in Article 2(1), and any substance intended or expected to be incorporated into food, feed or any product referred to in Article 2(1), through all stages of production, preparation and distribution;
- (50) 'stage of production, preparation and distribution' means any stage from the primary production of an organic product through its storage, processing, transport, and sale or supply to the final consumer, including, where relevant, labelling, advertising, import, export and subcontracting activities;

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive) (OJ L 164, 25.6.2008, p. 19).

⁽²⁾ Council Regulation (EC) No 708/2007 of 11 June 2007 concerning use of alien and locally absent species in aquaculture (OJ L 168, 28.6.2007, p. 1).

⁽³⁾ Directive 2001/82/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 November 2001 on the Community code relating to veterinary medicinal products (OJ L 311, 28.11.2001, p. 1).

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety (OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1).

⁽⁵⁾ Regulation (EC) No 767/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 on the placing on the market and use of feed, amending European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 and repealing Council Directive 79/373/EEC, Commission Directive 80/511/EEC, Council Directives 82/471/EEC, 83/228/EEC, 93/74/EEC, 93/113/EC and 96/25/EC and Commission Decision 2004/217/EC (OJ L 229, 1.9.2009, p. 1).

- (51) 'ingredient' means an ingredient as defined in point (f) of Article 2(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 or, for products other than food, any substance or product used in the manufacture or preparation of products that is still present in the finished product, even in altered form;
- (52) 'labelling' means any words, particulars, trade marks, brand name, pictorial matter or symbol relating to a product that are placed on any packaging, document, notice, label, ring or collar that accompanies or refers to that product;
- (53) 'advertising' means any presentation of products to the public, by any means other than a label, that is intended or is likely to influence and shape attitudes, beliefs and behaviours in order to directly or indirectly promote the sale of products;
- (54) 'competent authorities' means competent authorities as defined in point (3) of Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625;
- (55) 'control authority' means an organic control authority as defined in point (4) of Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625, or an authority recognised by the Commission or by a third country recognised by the Commission for the purposes of carrying out controls in third countries for the import of organic and in-conversion products into the Union;
- (56) 'control body' means a delegated body as defined in point (5) of Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625, or a body recognised by the Commission or by a third country recognised by the Commission for the purposes of carrying out controls in third countries for the import of organic and in-conversion products into the Union;
- (57) 'non-compliance' means non-compliance with this Regulation or non-compliance with the delegated or implementing acts adopted in accordance with this Regulation;
- (58) 'genetically modified organism' or 'GMO' means a genetically modified organism as defined in point (2) of Article 2 of Directive 2001/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽¹⁾ which is not obtained through the techniques of genetic modification listed in Annex I.B to that Directive;
- (59) 'produced from GMOs' means derived in whole or in part from GMOs but not containing or consisting of GMOs;
- (60) 'produced by GMOs' means derived by using a GMO as the last living organism in the production process, but not containing or consisting of GMOs nor produced from GMOs;
- (61) 'food additive' means a food additive as defined in point (a) of Article 3(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽²⁾;
- (62) 'feed additives' mean feed additives as defined in point (a) of Article 2(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽³⁾;
- (63) 'engineered nanomaterial' means an engineered nanomaterial as defined in point (f) of Article 3(2) of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽⁴⁾;
- (64) 'equivalence' means meeting the same objectives and principles by applying rules which ensure the same level of assurance of conformity;
- (65) 'processing aid' means a processing aid as defined in point (b) of Article 3(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 for food and in point (h) of Article 2(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 for feed;
- (66) 'food enzyme' means a food enzyme as defined in point (a) of Article 3(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1332/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽⁵⁾;
- (67) 'ionising radiation' means ionising radiation as defined in point (46) of Article 4 of Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom ⁽⁶⁾;

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2001/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 March 2001 on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms and repealing Council Directive 90/220/EEC (OJ L 106, 17.4.2001, p. 1).

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on food additives (OJ L 354, 31.12.2008, p. 16).

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition (OJ L 268, 18.10.2003, p. 29).

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on novel foods, amending Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EC) No 258/97 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1852/2001 (OJ L 327, 11.12.2015, p. 1).

⁽⁵⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1332/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on food enzymes and amending Council Directive 83/417/EEC, Council Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999, Directive 2000/13/EC, Council Directive 2001/112/EC and Regulation (EC) No 258/97 (OJ L 354, 31.12.2008, p. 7).

⁽⁶⁾ Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom of 5 December 2013 laying down basic safety standards for protection against the dangers arising from exposure to ionising radiation, and repealing Directives 89/618/Euratom, 90/641/Euratom, 96/29/Euratom, 97/43/Euratom and 2003/122/Euratom (OJ L 13, 17.1.2014, p. 1).

- (68) 'prepacked food' means prepacked food as defined in point (e) of Article 2(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011;
- (69) 'poultry house' means a fixed or mobile building for accommodating flocks of poultry, which includes all surfaces covered by roofs, including a veranda; the house may be subdivided into separate compartments, each accommodating a single flock;
- (70) 'soil-related crop cultivation' means production in living soil or in soil that is mixed or fertilised with materials and products that are allowed in organic production in connection with the subsoil and bedrock;
- (71) 'unprocessed products' means unprocessed products as defined in point (n) of Article 2(1) of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽¹⁾, irrespective of packaging or labelling operations;
- (72) 'processed products' means processed products as defined in point (o) of Article 2(1) of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004, irrespective of packaging or labelling operations;
- (73) 'processing' means processing as defined in point (m) of Article 2(1) of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004; this includes the use of substances referred to in Articles 24 and 25 of this Regulation but does not include packaging or labelling operations;
- (74) 'integrity of organic or in-conversion products' means the fact that the product does not exhibit non-compliance which:
- (a) in any stage of production, preparation and distribution affects the organic or in-conversion characteristics of the product; or
 - (b) is repetitive or intentional;
- (75) 'pen' means an enclosure that includes a part in which animals are provided with protection from adverse weather conditions.

CHAPTER II

OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC PRODUCTION

Article 4

Objectives

Organic production shall pursue the following general objectives:

- (a) contributing to protection of the environment and the climate;
- (b) maintaining the long-term fertility of soils;
- (c) contributing to a high level of biodiversity;
- (d) substantially contributing to a non-toxic environment;
- (e) contributing to high animal welfare standards and, in particular, to meeting the species-specific behavioural needs of animals;
- (f) encouraging short distribution channels and local production in the various areas of the Union;
- (g) encouraging the preservation of rare and native breeds in danger of extinction;
- (h) contributing to the development of the supply of plant genetic material adapted to the specific needs and objectives of organic agriculture;
- (i) contributing to a high level of biodiversity, in particular by using diverse plant genetic material, such as organic heterogeneous material and organic varieties suitable for organic production;
- (j) fostering the development of organic plant breeding activities in order to contribute to favourable economic perspectives of the organic sector.

Article 5

General principles

Organic production is a sustainable management system that is based on the following general principles:

- (a) respect for nature's systems and cycles and the sustainment and enhancement of the state of the soil, the water and the air, of the health of plants and animals, and of the balance between them;
- (b) the preservation of natural landscape elements, such as natural heritage sites;

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs (OJ L 139, 30.4.2004, p. 1).

- (c) the responsible use of energy and natural resources, such as water, soil, organic matter and air;
- (d) the production of a wide variety of high-quality food and other agricultural and aquaculture products that respond to consumers' demand for goods that are produced by the use of processes that do not harm the environment, human health, plant health or animal health and welfare;
- (e) ensuring the integrity of organic production at all stages of the production, processing and distribution of food and feed;
- (f) the appropriate design and management of biological processes, based on ecological systems and using natural resources which are internal to the management system, using methods that:
 - (i) use living organisms and mechanical production methods;
 - (ii) practice soil-related crop cultivation and land-related livestock production, or practice aquaculture which complies with the principle of the sustainable exploitation of aquatic resources;
 - (iii) exclude the use of GMOs, products produced from GMOs, and products produced by GMOs, other than veterinary medicinal products;
 - (iv) are based on risk assessment and the use of precautionary measures and preventive measures, where appropriate;
- (g) the restriction of the use of external inputs; where external inputs are required or the appropriate management practices and methods referred to in point (f) do not exist, the external inputs shall be limited to:
 - (i) inputs from organic production; in the case of plant reproductive material, priority shall be given to varieties selected for their ability to meet the specific needs and objectives of organic agriculture;
 - (ii) natural or naturally-derived substances;
 - (iii) low solubility mineral fertilisers;
- (h) the adaptation of the production process, where necessary and within the framework of this Regulation, to take account of the sanitary status, regional differences in the ecological balance, climatic and local conditions, stages of development and specific husbandry practices;
- (i) the exclusion from the whole organic food chain of animal cloning, of rearing artificially induced polyploid animals and of ionising radiation;
- (j) the observance of a high level of animal welfare respecting species-specific needs.

Article 6

Specific principles applicable to agricultural activities and aquaculture

As regards agricultural activities and aquaculture, organic production shall, in particular, be based on the following specific principles:

- (a) the maintenance and enhancement of soil life and natural soil fertility, soil stability, soil water retention and soil biodiversity, preventing and combating loss of soil organic matter, soil compaction and soil erosion, and the nourishing of plants primarily through the soil ecosystem;
- (b) the limitation of the use of non-renewable resources and external inputs to a minimum;
- (c) the recycling of waste and by-products of plant and animal origin as input in plant and livestock production;
- (d) the maintenance of plant health by preventive measures, in particular the choice of appropriate species, varieties or heterogeneous material resistant to pests and diseases, appropriate crop rotations, mechanical and physical methods and protection of the natural enemies of pests;
- (e) the use of seeds and animals with a high degree of genetic diversity, disease resistance and longevity;
- (f) in the choosing of plant varieties, having regard to the particularities of the specific organic production systems, focussing on agronomic performance, disease resistance, adaptation to diverse local soil and climate conditions and respect for the natural crossing barriers;

- (g) the use of organic plant reproductive material, such as plant reproductive material of organic heterogeneous material and of organic varieties suitable for organic production;
- (h) the production of organic varieties through natural reproductive ability and focussing on containment within natural crossing barriers;
- (i) without prejudice to Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 2100/94 and to the national plant variety rights granted under Member States' national law, the possibility for farmers to use plant reproductive material obtained from their own farms in order to foster genetic resources adapted to the special conditions of organic production;
- (j) in the choosing of animal breeds, having regard to a high degree of genetic diversity, the capacity of animals to adapt to local conditions, their breeding value, their longevity, their vitality and their resistance to disease or health problems;
- (k) the practice of site-adapted and land-related livestock production;
- (l) the application of animal husbandry practices which enhance the immune system and strengthen the natural defence against diseases, including regular exercise and access to open air areas and pastures;
- (m) the feeding of livestock with organic feed composed of agricultural ingredients resulting from organic production and of natural non-agricultural substances;
- (n) the production of organic livestock products derived from animals that have been raised on organic holdings throughout their lives since birth or hatching;
- (o) the continuing health of the aquatic environment and the quality of surrounding aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems;
- (p) the feeding of aquatic organisms with feed from sustainably exploited fisheries in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 or with organic feed composed of agricultural ingredients resulting from organic production, including organic aquaculture, and of natural non-agricultural substances;
- (q) avoiding any endangerment of species of conservation interest that might arise from organic production.

Article 7

Specific principles applicable to the processing of organic food

The production of processed organic food shall be based, in particular, on the following specific principles:

- (a) the production of organic food from organic agricultural ingredients;
- (b) the restriction of the use of food additives, of non-organic ingredients with mainly technological and sensory functions, and of micronutrients and processing aids, so that they are used to a minimum extent and only in cases of essential technological need or for particular nutritional purposes;
- (c) the exclusion of substances and processing methods that might be misleading as regards the true nature of the product;
- (d) the processing of organic food with care, preferably through the use of biological, mechanical and physical methods;
- (e) the exclusion of food containing, or consisting of, engineered nanomaterials.

Article 8

Specific principles applicable to the processing of organic feed

The production of processed organic feed shall be based, in particular, on the following specific principles:

- (a) the production of organic feed from organic feed materials;
- (b) the restriction of the use of feed additives and processing aids, so that they are used to a minimum extent and only in cases of essential technological or zootechnical needs or for particular nutritional purposes;