

Mr José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission

13 October 2014 No S-2014-1318

CONCERNING THE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OF THE SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Dear Mr President,

On 8 October 2014, the Committee on European Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania looked into the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on organic production and labelling of organic products, amending Regulation (EU) No XXX/XXX of the European Parliament and of the Council [Official controls Regulation] and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 (hereinafter referred to as the Proposal).

I would like to inform you that the Committee on European Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania adopted the opinion that the Proposal will have a significant and potentially negative impact on the organic production sector in Lithuania, therefore it is necessary to take into account the proportionality of the planned requirements and their proper balance with respect to consumers and producers. It is also very important that the proposed more stringent requirements for organic farming do not become a risk factor for the continuity of organic production and trigger abandonment of organic production by farmers. In particular, we stress and oppose the requirement to practise only organic production in the entire holding on the basis of the fact that a large part of farms in Lithuania and some other EU Member States practise mixed production (crop cultivation and livestock farming) and hold land on lease.

ATTACHMENT. Opinion of the Committee on European Affairs of 8 October 2014 on the Proposal, 2 pages.

Sincerely,

Gediminas Kirkilas
Chair of the Committee

Contact person: Ms Jolita Šedauskienė, tel. +370 5 239 68 60, fax +370 5 239 6409, e-mail: jolita.sedauskiene@lrs.lt



**SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**

**OPINION
ON THE PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND
OF THE COUNCIL ON ORGANIC PRODUCTION AND LABELLING OF ORGANIC
PRODUCTS, AMENDING REGULATION (EU) NO XXX/XXX OF THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL [OFFICIAL CONTROLS REGULATION] AND
REPEALING COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) NO 834/2007**

8 October 2014 No V-2014- 5902

Vilnius

The Committee on European Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania,

having considered the European Commission Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on organic production and labelling of organic products, amending Regulation (EU) No XXX/XXX of the European Parliament and of the Council [Official controls Regulation] and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 (hereinafter referred to as the Proposal), aimed at tightening up the existing requirements for organic farming;

having assessed the Position of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on the Proposal;

having regard to Conclusion No 110-P-37 of the Committee of Rural Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania of 24 September 2014, expressing the opinion of the Committee on the Proposal;

endorsing the objective of the Proposal to improve consumer confidence in organic products;

supporting the proposal to control farms according to their risk profile, because this would allow to reduce the administrative burden for both farms and control authorities, *and*

taking a consistent position that decisions should be taken through delegated acts only where the purpose is to make procedural, technical and/or non-substantial amendments to legal acts;

is of the opinion that

1. the Proposal will have a significant and potentially negative impact on the organic production sector in Lithuania, therefore it is necessary to take into account the proportionality of the planned requirements and their proper balance with respect to consumers and producers;

2. it is also very important that the proposed more stringent requirements for organic farming do not become a risk factor for the continuity of organic production and trigger abandonment of organic production by farmers. In particular, we stress and oppose the requirement to practise only organic production in the entire holding on the basis of the fact that a large part of farms in Lithuania and some other EU Member States practise mixed production (crop cultivation and livestock farming) and hold land on lease.

Gediminas Kirkilas

Chair of the Committee