

REPORT
Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending (EU) Regulation 2018/848 as regards certain production, labelling and certification rules and certain rules on trade with third countries
(2025/0417(COD))

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Compromise Amendements

PARAGRAPHS

COMPROMISE 1 on EQUIVALENCE

Article 1 – points 2, 3, 4, 7, 8(g) ; Article 2

Articles 30, 32, 33, 48, 49 and Annex VII - Regulation 2018/848

(2) Article 30 is amended as follows:

(a) paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

‘1. For the purposes of this Regulation, a product shall bear terms referring to organic production where, in the labelling, advertising material or commercial documents, such a product, its ingredients or feed materials used for its production are described in terms suggesting to the purchaser that the product, ingredients or feed materials have been produced in accordance with this Regulation. In particular, the terms listed in Annex IV and their derivatives and diminutives, such as ‘bio’ and ‘eco’, whether alone or in combination, may be used throughout the Union and in any language listed in that Annex for the labelling and advertising of products referred to in Article 2(1) which comply with this Regulation or are imported from a third country under the conditions laid down in Article 45(1), points (b)(ii) or (iii), for the purpose of placing such products on the market within the Union as organic products.’;

(b) in paragraph 2, the first subparagraph is replaced by the following:

‘For the products referred to in Article 2(1), the terms referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall not be used anywhere in the Union, in any language listed in Annex IV, for the labelling, advertising material, **information provided in online interfaces, domain names** or commercial documents of a product which does not comply with this Regulation or is not imported from a third country under the conditions laid down in Article 45, points (b)(ii) or (iii), for the purposes of placing that product on the market within the Union as an organic product.’;

(3) in Article 32(1), point (b) is replaced by the following:

‘(b) In the case of prepacked food, the organic production logo of the European Union referred in Article 33 shall also appear on the packaging, except in the following cases:

- in the case referred to in Article 30(3);
- in the cases referred to in points (b) and (c) of Article 30(5);
- in the cases where the processed food as referred to in point (a) of Article 30(5) is made with ingredients imported in accordance with Article 45(1), points (b)(ii) or (iii) and where such ingredients do not comply with the requirements set out in Annex VII.’;

- (4) Article 33 is replaced by the following:

‘Article 33

Organic production logo of the European Union

1. The organic production logo of the European Union may be used in the following cases:
 - (a) in the labelling, presentation and advertising of products which are produced in accordance with the rules laid down in Chapters II, III and IV;
 - (b) in the labelling, presentation and advertising of products that are imported in accordance with Article 45(1), points (b)(ii) or (iii), ***provided that those products*** comply with the requirements set out in Annex VII;
 - (c) for processed food referred to in Article 30(5), point (a), and processed feed referred to in Article 30(6), with ingredients that are imported in accordance with Article 45(1), points (b)(ii) or (iii), provided that those ingredients comply with the requirements set out in Annex VII;
 - (d) for information and educational purposes related to the existence and advertising of the logo itself, provided that such use is not liable to mislead the consumer as regards the organic production of specific products, and provided that the logo is reproduced in accordance with the rules set out in Annex V.

Where the organic production logo of the European Union is used in accordance with point (d) of the first subparagraph, the requirements of Article 32(2) and point 1.7 of Annex V shall not apply.

The organic production logo of the European Union shall not be used for processed food referred to in Article 30(5), points (b) and (c), and for in-conversion products as referred to in Article 30(3).
2. Except where used in accordance with paragraph 1, point (d), the organic production logo of the European Union is an official attestation in accordance with Articles 86 and 91 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625.
3. The use of the organic production logo of the European Union shall be optional for products imported from third countries. Where that logo appears in the labelling of such products in accordance with paragraph 1, the indication referred to in Article 32(2) shall also appear in the labelling.
4. The organic production logo of the European Union shall follow the model set out in Annex V, and shall comply with the rules set out in that Annex.

5. National logos and private logos may be used in the labelling, presentation and advertising of products, ***provided that they*** comply with this Regulation.
6. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 54 amending Annex V as regards the organic production logo of the European Union and the rules relating thereto.
7. ***The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 54 supplementing Annex VII by adding new requirements, or amending Annex VII by modifying or deleting requirements added pursuant to this paragraph, with which products imported in accordance with Article 45(1), points (b)(ii) or (iii), must comply in order to use the organic production logo of the European Union. Such delegated acts shall not modify or delete any requirement set out in Annex VII as established by this Regulation.***

Any new requirement or modification of a requirement added pursuant to the previous subparagraph shall be justified by a substantial change in the production or control rules applicable in the Union or in the third countries concerned that would render the use of the organic production logo of the European Union harmful to fair competition within the internal market in organic products or liable to give rise to ambiguity that could mislead consumers, shall be proportionate to that change, and shall pursue the objectives set out in Article 4 of this Regulation.

Such new requirements shall relate solely to the use of sustainable systems for plant production, of livestock production systems ensuring animal welfare and sustainable nutrition, and of food processing methods using minimum artificial inputs, while taking into account third countries' specificities for products not grown or processed in the Union.;

- (7) in Article 48(1), second subparagraph, the date '31 December 2026' is replaced by '31 December **2031**'

- (7a) ***in Article 48, the fifth paragraph is replaced by the following***

5. The Commission may adopt implementing acts to ensure the application of measures in relation to cases of suspected or established non-compliance, in particular those affecting the integrity of organic or in-conversion products imported from third countries referred to in this Article. Such measures may consist in particular in the verification of the integrity of organic or in-conversion products before placing the products on the market within the Union and, where appropriate, in the suspension ***or restriction*** of the authorisation for the placing on the market of such products within the Union as organic products or in-conversion products.

Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 55(2).

- (7b) ***in Article 49, the following subparagraph is added after the first paragraph,:***

'By 31 December 2028, the Commission shall present a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the state of negotiations on the conclusion of trade

agreements with the eleven third countries recognised for the purpose of equivalence under Article 33(2) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.'

(7c) in Article 53, the fourth paragraph is replaced by the following

4. From 1 January **2036**, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 54, based on the information as regards availability of organic protein feed for poultry and porcine animals made available by Member States in accordance with paragraph 6 of this Article or presented in the report referred to in paragraph 7 of this Article, ending the authorisations to use non-organic protein feed in the nutrition of poultry and porcine animals referred to in points 1.9.3.1(c) and 1.9.4.2(c) of Part II of Annex II at an earlier date than 31 December **2036** or extending them beyond that date.

(8) (g) The following Annex is added:

‘ANNEX VII

Requirements referred to in Article 32(1), point (b) and Article 33(1), points (b) and (c):

- (1) point 1.2 of Part I of Annex II;
- (2) point 1.7.5 of Part II of Annex II;
- (3) point 1.7.11 of Part II of Annex II;
- (4) point 2.2.2(f) of Part IV of Annex II’.

Article 1a

Transitional provisions

Products which have been produced, labelled and placed on the market in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/848 as applicable before the date referred to in the first subparagraph of this Article may continue to be made available on the market until stocks are exhausted.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

COMPROMISE 2 on SMALL OPERATORS and GROUPS OF OPERATORS

Article 1 – points 5 and 6

Articles 35(8) and 36(1)

Small Operators

(5) in Article 35(8), the first subparagraph is replaced by the following

‘Member States may exempt from the obligation to be in the possession of a certificate referred to in paragraph 2 operators that sell unpacked organic products other than feed directly to the final consumer, provided that

- (a) those operators do not produce, prepare, store other than in connection with the point of sale, or import such products from a third country, or subcontract such activities to a third party; and
- (b) such sales do not *represent an annual turnover of more than [EUR 25 000] or the potential certification costs for the operator would exceed 2 % of the annual total turnover on unpacked organic products sold by that operator*

(5a) in Article 35, the following paragraph is added:

‘8(a) The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts, in accordance with Article 54, in order to amend the annual turnover threshold referred to in paragraph 8 to reflect developments in the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP)’.

Groups of operators

(6) in Article 36, paragraph 1 is amended as follows:

- (a) point (b) is replaced by the following:

‘(b) only be composed of members:

 - (i) *whose potential individual certification costs would represent more than 2 % of their annual turnover or of their standard output of organic production; or*
 - (ii) who each have maximum holdings of:
 - 10 hectares;
 - one hectare, in the case of greenhouses, or;
 - 30 hectares, exclusively in the case of permanent grassland;’

(b) point (d) is replaced by the following:

‘(d) have legal personality, *including individual farm holdings*

or be part of a farmer cooperative association, operator cooperative, association, federation or organisation that has legal personality;’

COMPROMISE 3 on ANNEXES (except Part II, point 1.9.4.4., point (m) in brackets)

Article 1 – points 1 and 8

Article 24(1), Annexes II and III

(1) in Article 24(1), point (g) is deleted;

(8) Annex II is amended as follows:

(a-) Part I is amended as follows:

(a) ***point 1.8.2. is replaced by the following:***

‘To obtain organic plant reproductive material, the mother plant in the case of seeds and the parent plant in the case of vegetative propagating material shall have been produced in accordance with this Regulation for at least one generation, or, in the case of perennial crops, for at least one generation during two growing seasons.’

(a) Part II is amended as follows:

(a) in point 1.2.2., points (a), (c) and (d) are replaced by the following:

‘(a) 12 months in the case of bovine animals and equine animals for meat production;

(c) 10 weeks for poultry for meat production, except for Peking ducks and quails, brought in before they are three days old;

(d) seven weeks for Peking ducks and five weeks for quails brought in before they are three days old;’

(aa) point 1.3.4.3. is replaced by the following

By way of derogation from point 1.3.1, where a flock is constituted for the first time, or is renewed or reconstituted, and where the qualitative and quantitative needs of farmers cannot be met, the competent authority may decide that non-organically reared poultry may be brought into an organic poultry production unit, provided that the pullets for the production of eggs and poultry for meat production are less than three days old. Products derived from them may only be considered organic if the conversion period specified in point 1.2 has been complied with. ***However, in duly justified cases related to the availability of organically reared animals, animal welfare considerations or logistic constraints, the competent authority may decide that non-organically reared poultry intended for conversion at an age exceeding three days of age may be brought into organic production units, provided that they are less than seven days old.***

(ab) point 1.3.4.4.2, the introductory part is replaced by the following:

‘1.3.4.4.2 For breeding purposes, non-organic **sexually mature** male and non-organic nulliparous female animals may be introduced for the renewal of a herd or flock. They shall be reared subsequently in accordance with the organic production rules. In addition, the number of female animals shall be subject to the following restrictions per year:

(b) point 1.5.2.5. is replaced by the following:

‘1.5.2.5. The withdrawal period, as defined in Article 4, point (34), of Regulation (EU) 2019/6 of the European Parliament and of the Council*, of a chemically synthesized allopathic veterinary medicinal product, including of an antimicrobial veterinary medicinal product, shall be twice the withdrawal period referred to in:

- (a) the product information for veterinary medicinal products used within the terms of their marketing authorisation; or
- (b) Article 115 of that Regulation, where a medicinal product is used outside of the terms of the marketing authorisation in accordance with Article 113 of that Regulation.’

* Regulation (EU) 2019/6 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on veterinary medicinal products and repealing Directive 2001/82/EC (OJ L 4, 7.1.2019, p. 43, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/6/oj>).’;

(ba) ***point 1.6.4 is replaced by the following:***

‘1.6.4. The minimum surface for indoor and outdoor areas, and the technical details relating to housing, laid down in the implementing acts referred to in Article 14(3), shall be complied with. ***Where innovative housing systems are used, indoor and outdoor areas shall be combined. That combined area shall correspond to the sum of the minimum surface for indoor and outdoor areas.***’

(bb) ***point 1.6.5 is replaced by the following:***

‘Outdoor areas may be partially or, where necessary, largely covered, provided that the outdoor area retains the character of an open-air environment. Roofing shall be permitted to the extent required to adapt to specific regional climates, and animal welfare needs, to ensure that animals are protected from extreme weather conditions, to maintain the usability of outdoor areas, and to minimise environmental risks. Verandas shall not be considered to be outdoor areas.’

(bc) ***point 1.9.1.1, letter (b) is replaced by the following:***

‘(b) animals shall have access to pasturage for grazing whenever conditions allow ***and, where they do not, adequate alternatives may be provided through the use of innovative livestock housing systems,***

provided that the indoor and outdoor areas exceed the minimum surface for indoor and outdoor areas laid down in the implementing acts referred to in Article 14(3), provided that herbivores have had access to grazing areas at some stage of their life;

(bd) **in point 1.9.3.1, point (c) is replaced by the following:**

‘(c) where farmers are unable to obtain protein feed exclusively from organic production, and the competent authority has confirmed that organic protein feed is not available in sufficient quantity, non-organic protein feed may be used until **31 December 2036**

provided that the following conditions are fulfilled:’

(c) in point 1.9.4.1, in the third subparagraph, the following point is added:

‘(j) 42 days for quails.’;

(ca) **in point 1.9.4.2 point (c) is replaced by the following:**

‘(c) where farmers are unable to obtain protein feed exclusively from organic production for poultry species, and the competent authority has confirmed that organic protein feed is not available in sufficient quantity, non-organic protein feed may be used until **31 December 2036** provided that the following conditions are fulfilled:’

(d) point 1.9.4.4. is amended as follows:

(i) point (e) is replaced by the following:

‘(e) continuous daytime open air access shall be provided from as early an age as birds are sufficiently feathered to regulate their body temperature when exposed to outdoor climatic conditions and whenever physiological and physical conditions allow, except where temporary restrictions have been imposed pursuant to Union legislation;’;

[(ii) point (m) is replaced by the following:

‘(m) the total usable surface area for fattening poultry in poultry houses shall not exceed 1 600 m² in any poultry house;’;]

(b) in Part III, point 3.1.4.2(f) is replaced by the following:

‘The withdrawal period, as defined in Article 4, point (34), of Regulation (EU) 2019/6, of an allopathic veterinary medicinal product shall be twice the withdrawal period referred to in:

(a) the product information for veterinary medicinal products used within the terms of their marketing authorisation; or

(b) Article 115 of that Regulation, where a medicinal product is used outside the terms of the marketing authorisation in accordance with Article 114 of that Regulation.’;

(c) in part IV, point 2.2.3. is deleted;

- (d) in part V, point 2.4. is deleted;
- (e) in part VII, point 1.4. is deleted;
- (f) in Annex III, point 7.5. is deleted;

**COMPROMISE 4 on DEFINITIONS, LABELLING, CONTROLS AND REVIEW
CLAUSE**

Articles 3 point (53), 32 paragraphs 2 and 3, x - Regulation 2018/848

(9) Article 3 is amended as follows:

(a) point 17 is replaced by the following:

(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, "seedlings" are not included;

(b) point (53) is replaced by the following:

*(53) ‘advertising’ means any presentation of products to the public, **including on the online market**, 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;*

(c) after point (75) the following point is added:

(75a) ‘innovative livestock housing systems’ means housing systems ensuring improvements in animal welfare and climate protection in livestock farming;’

(9a) in Article 10(4), the following point (c) is added:

‘(c) livestock, if marketed to other organic farms, provided that there is relevant documentation in terms of certification of the operators involved and that the animal has been registered by the operator of the former organic or in-conversion production unit and, following the sale, by the operator of the subsequent organic or in-conversion production unit’;

(9b) Article 12 is amended as follows:

(a) The following paragraph is inserted after the second paragraph:

‘(3) The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 54 supplementing point 1.8.4 of Part I of Annex II of this Regulation by setting out additional rules for organic plant breeding, as regards the following elements:

- (a) the starting and crossing material;*
- (b) the transparency on plant breeding techniques used;*
- (c) the conditions and durations of organic breeding programmes and*
- (d) the intellectual property rights applicable to varieties created through organic plant breeding. '*

(9b) Article 29 is amended as follows

(a) Paragraph 9 is replaced by the following

By 31 March of each year, Member States shall electronically transmit to the Commission relevant information about cases involving contamination with non-authorised products or substances in the previous year, including information collected at border control posts, concerning the nature of contamination detected, and in particular the cause, the source and the level of contamination as well as the volume and nature of products contaminated. This information shall be collected by the Commission through the computer system made available by the Commission and shall be used to facilitate the formulation of best practices for avoiding contamination. ***The Commission shall publish such best practices, including recommendations aimed at improving the prevention, management and harmonised handling of contamination cases across the Union. The first publication shall take place by 30 September 2028 and shall thereafter be updated at least every four years.***

(10) Article 32 is amended as follows:

(a) paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

2. Where the organic production logo of the European Union is used, an indication of the place where the agricultural raw materials of which the product is composed have been farmed shall appear in the same visual field as the logo and shall take one of the following forms, as appropriate:
 - (a) 'EU Agriculture', where the agricultural raw material has been farmed in the Union;
 - (b) 'non-EU Agriculture', where the agricultural raw material has been farmed in third countries;
 - (c) 'EU/non-EU Agriculture', where a part of the agricultural raw materials has been farmed in the Union and a part of it has been farmed in a third country.

For the purposes of the first subparagraph, the word 'Agriculture' may be replaced by 'Aquaculture' where appropriate and the words 'EU' and 'non-EU' ***shall*** be supplemented by the name of a country, or by the name of a country and a region, if all of the agricultural raw materials of which the product is composed have been farmed in that country and, if applicable, in that region.

For the indication of the place where the agricultural raw materials of which the product is composed have been farmed, as referred to in the first and third subparagraphs, small quantities by weight of ingredients may be disregarded, provided that the total quantity of the disregarded ingredients does not exceed 5 % of the total quantity by weight of agricultural raw materials.

The words 'EU' or 'non-EU' shall not appear in a colour, size and style of lettering that is more prominent than the name of the product.

(b) paragraph 3 is replaced by the following:

3. The indications referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article and in Article 33(3) shall be marked in a conspicuous place, ***shall have the same prominence as the other information contained in the logo and shall be presented in the same font size*** in such a way as to be easily visible, and shall be clearly legible and indelible.

(10a) Article 38 is amended as follows

(a) In paragraph 1, the following point (f) is added:

1. Official controls performed in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 for the verification of compliance with this Regulation shall include, in particular:

(a) the verification of the application by operators of preventive and precautionary measures, as referred to in Article 9(6) and in Article 28 of this Regulation, at every stage of production, preparation and distribution;

(b) where the holding includes non-organic or in-conversion production units, the verification of the records and of the measures or procedures or arrangements in place to ensure the clear and effective separation between organic, in-conversion and non-organic production units as well as between the respective products produced by those units, and of the substances and products used for organic, in-conversion and non-organic production units; such verification shall include checks on parcels for which a previous period was recognised retroactively as part of the conversion period, and checks on the non-organic production units;

(c) where organic, in-conversion and non-organic products are collected simultaneously by operators, are prepared or stored in the same preparation unit, area or premises, or are transported to other operators or units, the verification of the records and of the measures, procedures or arrangements in place to ensure that operations are carried out separated by place or time, that suitable cleaning measures and, where appropriate, measures to prevent substitution of products are implemented, that organic products and in-conversion products are identified at all times and that organic, in-conversion and non-organic products are stored, before and after the preparation operations, separated by place or time from each other;

(d) the verification of the set-up and functioning of the internal control system of groups of operators;

(e) where operators are exempted from the notification obligation in accordance with Article 34(2) of this Regulation or from the obligation to be in the possession of a certificate in accordance with Article 35(8) of this Regulation, the verification that the requirements for that exemption have been fulfilled and the verification of the products sold by those operators.

(f) where organic or in-conversion products are marketed through online interfaces, marketplaces, distance-selling services, or domain-based electronic commerce systems, the

verification of digital traceability records, online product presentation, certification claims, operator identification, and compliance of electronic sales channels with this Regulation.

(b) In paragraph 8, letter (a), the following point (iv) is added

8. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 54:

(a) supplementing this Regulation by laying down specific criteria and conditions for the performance of official controls conducted to ensure the traceability at all stages of production, preparation and distribution, and compliance with this Regulation, concerning:

(i) checks of documentary accounts;

(ii) controls performed on specific categories of operators;

(iii) where appropriate, the period within which the controls provided for in this Regulation, including the physical on-the-spot inspections referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article, are to be performed and the particular premises in or area on which they are to be performed;

(iv) controls relating to online interfaces and domain names used for the marketing of organic or in-conversion products, including measures to prevent continued marketing in cases of serious or repeated non-compliance.

(11) After Article 53, the following Article 53(a) is added:

‘Article 53(a)

Review clause

By 31 December 2030 and every seven years thereafter, the Commission shall review this Regulation and submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council, assessing its implementation and impact and, in particular, its effectiveness, efficiency, its administrative burden and opportunities for simplification’

RECITALS

COMPROMISE 5 on RECITALS

(14) Operators in the Union that produce organic food and feed rely on the use of ingredients imported from third countries whose organic production and control systems have been recognised as equivalent to those of the Union. Such ingredients ~~are used in variable proportions during the processing of organic products in the Union and~~ are necessary for a large variety of organic products processed in the Union. Processing operations in the Union, when using those ingredients, take place in compliance with the production rules set out in Regulation (EU) 2018/848. The use of the organic production logo of the European Union should therefore be allowed by products processed in the Union and that contain organic ingredients either produced in accordance with this Regulation or imported from third countries whose organic production and control systems have been recognised as equivalent to those of the Union ~~and where those ingredients account for 5% or less of the agricultural ingredients~~

~~of the product (by weight for food and in general for feed). Where those ingredients account for more than 5% of the agricultural ingredients of the product (by weight for food and in general for feed), and~~ in order to ensure a fair competition within the internal market between processed products containing ingredients that fully comply with Union production and control rules and those that comply with rules equivalent to those Union rules, and in order to respond to consumer expectations in relation to the use of the organic production logo of the European Union, that logo should be allowed in the labelling, presentation and advertising of processed products containing ingredients imported from those third countries, provided that, in addition to those equivalent rules, those ingredients comply with certain additional production and control requirements.

(15) Regulation (EU) 2018/848 provides that the use of the organic production logo of the European Union is obligatory for all organic prepacked food produced within the Union. It is therefore necessary to exclude from that obligation prepacked food produced within the Union with ingredients imported from third countries whose organic production and control systems have been recognised as equivalent to those of the Union and where those ingredients ~~account for more than 5% of the agricultural ingredients of the product by weight and~~ do not comply with certain additional production and control requirements.

(15a) Products originating from third countries which do not meet the additional requirements set out in Annex VII should not be imported into the European Union for the production of processed food.

(16) Regulation (EU) 2018/848 lays down provisions on the conditions under which Member States can exempt smaller operators from the obligation to be in the possession of a certificate pursuant to Article 35(1) of that Regulation. The increasing costs experienced by smaller operators since the entry into application of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 have increased their turnover in relation to unpacked organic products other than feed. This has created a barrier to the fulfilment of the conditions relating to their turnover in order to be exempted from the obligation of being in possession of a certificate pursuant to Article 35(1). Such a barrier in turn results in increased costs due to that obligation. The conditions relating to the annual turnover under which Member States can exempt smaller operators from being in possession of a certificate pursuant to Article 35(1) of that Regulation should therefore be ***adapted empowering the Commission to adopt delegated acts in order to reflect the developments in the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP).*** In addition, the ***varying economic value of each product means that different products generate different profits. This makes it difficult to ensure a fair exemption treatment among small operators that sell the same quantity of different products from one another. It is therefore necessary to abolish the condition related to annual sales in order not to create an unfair treatment and competition among small operators.***

(17) Regulation (EU) 2018/848 lays down provisions on the composition of groups of operators in the Union and in third countries. Evidence in relation to the implementation of those provisions shows significant difficulties in setting up groups of operators that fulfil requirements as regards the composition of members, in particular the annual turnover, and as regards their legal personality. Such difficulties include administrative costs and the need to reorganise the economic activities of groups of producers that are currently in cooperative associations, operator cooperatives, associations, federations or organisations. Such difficulties prevent smaller operators from becoming part of groups of operators, since provisions in place do not appropriately reflect the needs and resource capacity of small farmers and operators, at

the disadvantage of the development of organic farming both in the Union and in third countries. In third countries, the reorganisation of the producers' activities can also result in difficulties in supplying the Union with products originating from them, with the consequent risk of trade disruptions. The requirements relating to the annual turnover of the members of the groups of operators should therefore be **revised**. In addition, the requirement relating to the maximum eligible surface areas of members' holdings should be revised upwards in order to allow the integration into groups of operators of smaller operators.

(18) The recognition of third countries whose organic production and control systems have been recognised as equivalent to those of the Union will expire on 31 December 2026. On 28 June 2021, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with the eleven third countries recognised for the purpose of equivalence under Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 with a view to concluding international agreements with them on trade in organic products. On that basis, the Commission has been conducting technical exchanges with these third countries. Those exchanges show different levels of progress, due to the diversity of legal and regulatory frameworks and complexities linked to varying consumer perceptions of organic production from one organic production system to the other. It is therefore necessary and urgent for those third countries to continue to be recognised until 31 December **2031** to avoid disruptions in the **internal market and in the trade of organic products as well as to avoid undermining consumers' confidence and protection. Given the exceptional nature of this measure, it is therefore necessary that the Commission reports regularly to the European Parliament and the Council on the status of negotiations with the eleven third countries recognised for the purpose of equivalence under Article 33(2) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.**

(25a) In order to ensure legal certainty and to avoid unnecessary food waste and disproportionate economic losses for operators, products that have been lawfully produced, labelled, and placed on the market under the current rules regarding the use of the EU organic logo should be allowed to be marketed until stocks are exhausted.

(25b) In the event of catastrophic circumstances resulting from an adverse climatic event, animal diseases, an environmental incident, a natural disaster or a catastrophic event, which render compliance with the production rules laid down in this Regulation impossible, the competent authorities of the Member States concerned should be able to grant derogations to competent authorities from those production rules for a limited period, until organic production is re-established.

(25c) The Commission should conduct a technical consultation process, in collaboration with Member States and stakeholders, aimed at ensuring the correct interpretation of the slow-growing poultry breeds used in organic production. This work would take into account, amongst other aspects, national quality schemes, current marketing standards and the specific characteristics of the various organic poultry production models in place across the Union;