

European Parliament
ALTIERO SPINELLI Building
60, rue Wiertz / Wiertzstraat 60
B-1047 Brussels/Brussel

07th July 2026

Subject : Warning regarding the significant risks posed by an amendment removing the grazing requirement from the organic production rules

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

Our organic producer organisations, based in Czechia, Italy, Spain and France, wish to alert you to the risk and the very significant consequences of an amendment currently being considered by the European Parliament, which threatens organic grazing livestock systems.

Our organic cattle farmers place grazing at the heart of their farming systems, providing their animals with conditions conducive to their development, health and welfare. In doing so, they enhance permanent grassland and help create landscapes and an environment that are sustainable and resilient to climate change, soil erosion and wildfires. Organic farming has always regarded grazing as the foundation of its cattle farming practices, and the requirement to provide grazing for organic cattle has been in place since the first set of European organic specifications, drawn up in 1995.

EU Regulation No 2018/848, which sets out the production rules, is currently being amended by the European Parliament. Members of the AGRI Committee will be invited to vote on a list of compromise amendments, orchestrated by the rapporteur Camila Laureti (Socialists and Democrats, Italy) and a team of shadow rapporteurs. Despite our warnings regarding the risks of undermining the consistency of organic production rules, our organisations have learnt that a compromise amendment clearly backtracks on the requirement for animals to be put out to pasture. This amendment (No. 169 in the list of amendments to this text) has been proposed by certain German organisations, some of whose farms are unable to provide satisfactory grazing conditions.

‘(b) Animals must have access to pasture for grazing as soon as conditions permit. Where conditions do not permit grazing, adequate alternatives may be put in place through the use of innovative livestock housing systems, provided that the indoor and outdoor areas exceed the minimum areas laid down for indoor and outdoor spaces in the implementing acts referred to in Article 14(3). Herbivores must have had access to grazing areas at some point in their lives;’

In short, the proposed amendment aims to circumvent the requirement to provide grazing for organic animals, provided that farms have put in place ‘innovative housing’. There is no common definition of ‘innovative building’ within the EU. However, the expert group responsible for advising on organic production rejected the proposal (put forward by Germany) for pig and cattle farming in autumn 2025, on the grounds that it did not provide sufficient evidence to support the claimed improvements in animal welfare and organic production.

The concept is so vague that it could allow farms to avoid putting organic animals out to pasture and to keep them indoors instead, contrary to all the principles of organic production that Czech, Spanish, Italian and French producers adhere to. Furthermore, production carried out exclusively indoors could constitute unfair competition against organic farms that utilize grazing and provide multiple benefits for the environment, animal health and the landscapes of our countries.

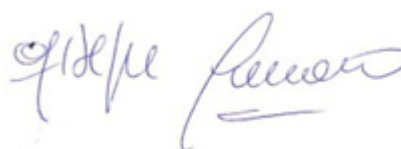
In light of these risks, we would like to count on your support to raise, within your political groups and within the AGRI Committee, a call for this amendment to be withdrawn from the list of compromise amendments.

Yours faithfully,

Loïc Madeline
Fédération Nationale d'Agriculture
Biologique's co-president;



Giuseppe Romano
Associazione Italiana per l'Agricoltura
Biologica's President



Alvaro A. Barrera Fernández
ECOVALIA's President



Gonzalo Palomo Guijarro
President of SEAE- Sociedad Española de
Agricultura Ecológica y Agroecología



Ing. Zdeněk Perlinger - President of
PRO-BIO ASSOCIATION OF ORGANIC
FARMERS

