



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
ENVIRONMENT  
ENV.D. – Natural Capital  
The Director

Brussels,  
env.d.1/WD/kz(2018)

Diana Saaman

The Netherlands

Email: [organicfarmersnl@yahoo.com](mailto:organicfarmersnl@yahoo.com)

**Subject: E-mail, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2018, requesting support for organic dairy farmers regarding a possible exemption of the EU phosphate reduction scheme**

Dear Ms Samaan,

Thank you for your e-mail regarding requesting the Commission's support for an exemption from the EU Phosphate reduction plan for Dutch organic dairy farmers.

Due to growing livestock numbers and the associated manure production, the Netherlands must ensure that the pressure on water bodies does not increase. Therefore, the Netherlands shall guarantee that total manure production, both for nitrogen and phosphorus levels remain below the levels documented in 2002. To facilitate this, the system of phosphate production rights relating to dairy cattle, pigs and poultry has been set up, and has been in place for all three husbandries since January 2018. This system aims to ensure that the manure production ceiling is respected.

As organic farming is more beneficial to the environment than intensive farming, the growth of organic dairy farming in the Netherlands would indeed help alleviate some of the considerable pressure on the environment resulting from the intensive livestock sector. Therefore, taking into account the specificity of the organic farming sector, it could be justified to grant organic dairy farmers a more favourable regime.

However, it is the responsibility of the Dutch Authorities to allocate the phosphate rights in accordance with its manure law, including the granting of possible exemptions.

Yours sincerely,

p.s.  
Humberto Delgado Rosa