

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CULTURE DU HOUBLON
INTERNATIONAL HOP GROWERS' CONVENTION - INTERNATIONALES HOPFENBAUBÜRO

Ms Nathalie Sauze-Vandeyver
Director
DG Agri
European Commission
Rue De La Loi 130
Be - 1049 Bruxelles

May 30, 2018

Dear Ms Sauze- Vandevyver,

With this letter I would like to present the position of the International Hop Growers' Convention (IHGC) on Annex IX of Regulation (EC) 889/2008.

IHGC is a member organization representing the hop growing countries of the world along with hop merchants and various research, trade and affiliate organizations around the world.

We oppose the inclusion of hops into the list of approved non-organic products that can be used in the production of beer.

The EU organic hop production as well as the USA organic hop production is growing every year. Organic growers' world wide currently offer the brewer a wide assortment of varieties and sourcing points for organic hops.

The United States faced the same issue some years back and decided and put into law that Organic Beer would no longer be allow the hop exception in the production of organic beer. Since that time we have seen the Organic Hop Production increase substantially to fill that need domestically and world wide.

As one of the goals of the IHGC is to harmonize the regulations around beer and hops world wide we feel it important that the EU regulations mirror USA regulations and vice a versa. This regulation, if adopted, would lead to a collapse of the world wide Organic Hop Production.

We hope that you will see that this regulation would reverse all that is being gained on sustainable and organic hop production.

Sincerely



Leslie A Roy Pres
IHGC