



Member of the European Parliament

Mr Alun Ffred Jones AM  
Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee  
National Assembly for Wales

25th June 2015

Dear Alun

Thank you very much for your letter, on behalf of the Environment and Sustainability Committee, on the proposed regulation on Organic Production and Labelling.

I am very grateful for the work the Committee has undertaken to examine the potential impact of this proposal on the organic sector in Wales and to highlight the concerns of Welsh producers.

In advance of the Agriculture Committee (AGRI) amendment deadline, I raised all of your concerns with my Conservative colleague Mrs Julie Girling MEP, who is leading for the ECR Group on this file and drew particular attention to those such as the impact on mass catering operators and retailers that remain unaddressed by Mr Martin Häusling in his draft report.

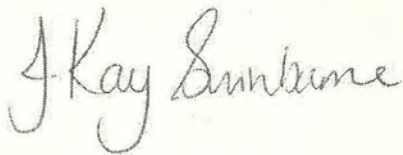
Mrs Girling and the ECR Group share a number of the concerns highlighted in your letter and we are working hard to see them addressed.

For example, with regards to the proposal for entire holdings to be managed in compliance with organic production, the ECR Group has argued that the setting of a phase out time limit is not a suitable solution and farmers should continue to have the option to have mixed farms; as the negotiations on this proposal continue, maintaining these mixed farms will be a priority for us.

The ECR Group also recognises the importance of your points on seeds and on the difficulties of sourcing regional feed and we are seeking to ensure that provisions on both issues in the final text are practical and workable for farmers.

I will continue to monitor this file very closely as it progresses through the European Parliament and I would be very pleased if the Committee would remain in touch on this matter.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Kay Swinburne**  
**MEP for Wales**

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