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Diego Canga Fano
Director
Directorate B- Multilateral relations, Quality policy
European Commission
1049 Brussels, BELGIUM

Date: April 7, 2016

SUBJECT: **Amendment of Recognition of Equivalency with European Union**

Dear Mr. Canga Fano,

Canada has reviewed the European system for organic production, labelling and control as set out in the *Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007*, *Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008*, and *Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008* ("European Organic System").

Pursuant to the *Canadian Food Inspection Agency Act* and the *Canada Agricultural Products Act*, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has determined, based on that review, that agricultural products, including wine, which are produced and processed in the European Union and which are:

- certified in conformity with the above-mentioned EU Regulations by an EU control authority or control body approved in accordance with Article 27 of *Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007*; and
- accompanied by the certificate which is issued by an EU control authority or control body

are deemed equivalent to those products that have been produced and processed in accordance with the *Canadian Organic Products Regulations, 2009* (OPR 2009); and may be sold, labelled and represented in Canada as organic, including by display of the Canadian organic logo as well as the EU organic logo as set out in the *Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008*. This recognition will be effective as of **April 7, 2016** under the conditions set forth in [Appendix 1](#).

This letter of recognition replaces the CFIA's previous letter of recognition dated 21 June 2011 on the same subject-matter. The CFIA, which administers the *OPR, 2009* is committed to working with the European Commission to carry out what is envisioned in this new letter.

Should the CFIA decide to change its requirements for determining equivalency, it will notify EU in writing in advance.

Sincerely,



Lyzette Lamondin

Acting Executive Director

Food Import Export and Consumer Protection Directorate

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Attachments:

1. Appendix 1: Conditions for granting equivalency

Appendix 1

Conditions for granting equivalency

The recognition of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is subject to the following conditions:

1. The European Commission notifies the CFIA in a timely manner of any;
 - (a) changes with respect to EU Member States competent authorities and registered control bodies;
 - (b) all proposed legislation or rule making that would modify any element of the European Organic System; and
 - (c) instances of significant non-compliance with EU's organic certification program. For purposes of this equivalency determination, "significant" means any non-conformity that materially affects the integrity of the organic product that is likely to be exported to Canada.
2. Following advance notice from the CFIA, the EU allows the CFIA to conduct evaluations (document reviews or on-site peer reviews) to verify how the EU accredited control authorities and control bodies carry out the requirements of EU's organic certification program. The EU cooperates and assists the CFIA, to the extent permitted under domestic law, in carrying out such evaluations.
3. EU is expected to submit an annual report to the CFIA that will cover the organic activities for the previous year by March 31 of the current year.
4. The EU participates in discussions or other means deemed appropriate to resolve any issue raised regarding the application of or the activities covered by this recognition.