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Guidelines on additional official controls on organic products originating in Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russian Federation and China

Dear representatives of the Control Bodies,

In the context of COVID-19, we have been made aware that some of you are facing issues to ensure that the additional controls on organic products originating in Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russian Federation and China can be carried out in line with the letters with reference Ares(2019)7619387 and Ares(2019)7616255 respectively. This seems to be due to the serious restrictions applied which prevents physical inspections, which also precludes from taking samples as well as the courier services used to deliver these samples to the laboratories, as a consequence of the measures introduced to protect human health.

For this reason, we would like to inform you that, in agreement with the competent authorities of the Member States and in order to prevent disruptions of trade, we have decided to partially suspend the application of the measures described in the above-mentioned letters. As the physical inspections and sampling are of particular difficulty in some countries, systematic physical inspections and sampling will not have to be carried out when those are not possible due to the restrictions. We would like to highlight that the systematic documentary checks are still in place, including traceability etc. This temporary suspension is only intended to cover the contingency situation linked to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

It will be in place until 31 May 2020. The Commission will revisit the situation in due time.

I will keep you informed when arrangements may be reviewed in the light of further evolutions of the

situation.

Yours sincerely,

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