

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004391/25
to the Commission
Morten Løkkegaard (Renew)
(6 November 2025)**

Subject: Approval of live microbial biosolutions as feed additives

Living microorganisms are increasingly being used as natural feed additives with the potential to improve feed efficiency and reduce methane emissions. The EU rules, however, do not yet set out any practically applied or tested approval processes for live microorganisms used for environmental purposes, although synthetic additives can be approved as zootechnical additives under Article 6(1)(d) of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003.

Can the Commission please answer the following questions:

1. In principle, do Articles 5 (safety/efficacy) and 7 (application requirements) of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 allow the approval of live microorganisms as feed additives when the requirements are met?
2. Will Commission Regulation (EC) No 429/2008 be updated so that live microbial biosolutions can be assessed on an equal footing with synthetic additives and inactivated microbes, and if so, when?
3. What steps will the Commission be taking to support the development and approval of biological feed additives that can contribute to methane reduction and sustainable/organic livestock production, including discussions on introducing a faster fast-track procedure for safe biosolutions with proven climate benefits in the Commission's proposal for a legislative act on biotechnology?

Submitted: 6.11.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(19 January 2026)**

Any feed additive consisting of live microorganisms can currently be authorised in accordance with the rules and procedures set out in Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 ⁽¹⁾, including in the category of 'zootechnical additives' to favourably affect the environment, as referred to in point (d) of Article 6(1) of that regulation and in point 4 (c) of Annex I thereto (hereafter '4c feed additives').

Similarly, Commission Regulation (EC) No 429/2008 ⁽²⁾ can accommodate applications for 4c feed additives consisting of live microorganisms and therefore does not need to be amended for that purpose.

In particular, Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 429/2008 lays down general requirements for the application dossier, independently from the functional group which is being applied for.

Annex III further provides for specific requirements with respect to certain categories of additives, including explicit reference to zootechnical additives consisting of live microorganisms.

The Commission adopted on 16 December 2025 a proposal for a Food and Feed simplification package ⁽³⁾ to tackle overlapping, unnecessary or burdensome rules, including in the area of feed additives.

While maintaining very high safety standards, the aim is to simplify rules and procedures, thus offering a more supportive environment for innovation such as the development of new '4c' feed additives.

The Commission proposal was transmitted to the European Parliament and to the Council in accordance with the legislative procedure.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition. OJ L 268, 18.10.2003, pp. 29, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2003/1831/oj>.

⁽²⁾ Commission Regulation (EC) No 429/2008 of 25 April 2008 on detailed rules for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the preparation and the presentation of applications and the assessment and the authorisation of feed additives. OJ L 133, 22.5.2008, pp. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2008/429/oj>.

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_3081.