

L'Isle Jourdain, France, 30th of June 2020

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***WE ARE BACK IN THE FIELD***

Dear Clients,

The improvement of the epidemic situation in many countries, combined with the implementation of a strict health protocol, has enabled us to gradually, and sustainably, resume our on-site audits putting our boots back on the ground, alongside you. Our offices are reopened and operational in a large majority of our Group subsidiaries.

In the regions of the world where lockdown remains, particularly in South America, we are maintaining the processes put in place at the beginning of the crisis, including remote audits, in order to maintain certifications.

In this respect, we would like to thank you warmly for adapting, with us, to this crisis, by agreeing to use remote audits when possible to do so.

However, while progress is visible, it is far too early to return to "normal business": the virus is still circulating and could disrupt our operations at any time. The logistics of organising on-site audits has also become more complex and requires thorough planning... We are making all the necessary efforts to carry out all audits before the year end. In this context, it is essential to plan them as early as possible by contacting our offices, preferably by e-mail, in order to facilitate this organisation.

For the safety of all, we are grateful for you to welcome our auditors in compliance with the health measures in force: masks, safety distance, ventilated premises, barrier gestures, etc.

The crisis we are going through has disrupted food production and distribution, highlighting the importance of local and short supply chain, enhancing the work of our farmers and of the entire organic sector. The accelerating growth in consumption of organic products, particularly visible in Europe and the USA, confirms the attachment of more and more consumers to the organic principles and values. The ambitious objective of the European Commission, within the framework of the Green Pact, to increase to 25% of the EU's agricultural land under Organic farming by 2030, is further evidence of this trend.



Despite difficulties this crisis continues to impose on your business, we remain optimistic and enthusiastic at the idea of participating with you in the development of organic farming.

Finally, I would like to thank you, dear clients, for your commitment on our side and I also assure you that our entire team is doing their best to better meet your needs.



**Philippe THOMAZO**

*CEO Ecocert Group*

