DECISION NO 1/2022 OF THE JOINT SWITZERLAND-UNITED KINGDOM COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

of 21 June 2022 on modification of Annex 9 to the Incorporated Agriculture Agreement

THE JOINT SWITZERLAND-UNITED KINGDOM COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

RECALLING that the Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on trade in agricultural products, done at Luxembourg on 21 June 1999, is incorporated into and made part of the Trade Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ("the Trade Agreement"), which was done at Bern on 11 February 2019 and entered into force on 1 January 2021;

CONSIDERING that Article 6 of the Trade Agreement provides for the establishment of a Joint Switzerland-United Kingdom Committee on Agriculture ("the Joint Committee"), pursuant to Article 6 of the incorporated Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on trade in agricultural products ("the Incorporated Agriculture Agreement"), upon coming into effect of the Trade Agreement;

CONSIDERING that Decision No. 1/2021 of the Joint Committee replaced Annex 9 of the Incorporated Agriculture Agreement and introduced the Annex 9 currently applicable between Switzerland and the United Kingdom, as set out in Appendix C of Annex 4 to the Trade Agreement;

HAVING REGARD to Paragraph 1 of Article 6 of Annex 9 to the Incorporated Agriculture Agreement, which provides that Annex 9 shall apply for a transitional period, which shall end 24 months after the date of the entry into force or provisional application of the Trade Agreement;

CONSIDERING that the transitional period provided for in Paragraph 1 of Article 6 of Annex 9 will end on 31 December 2022 and that Annex 9 therefore would no longer be applicable after that date;

RECALLING that exploratory discussions between Switzerland and the United Kingdom regarding a modernisation of the Trade Agreement and, in that context, regarding the substance of the Incorporated Agriculture Agreement have started in the year 2021;

HAVING REGARD to Article 11 of the Incorporated Agriculture Agreement, empowering the Joint Committee to amend the Annexes to the Incorporated Agriculture Agreement;

HAVING REGARD to Paragraph 2 of Article 6 of Annex 9 to the Incorporated Agriculture Agreement, empowering the Joint Committee, upon recommendation of the

Working Group, to decide on continuous application of Annex 9, with or without modifications, for an extended transitional period, or to replace it;

HAS DECIDED:

- 1. Paragraph 1 of Article 6 of Annex 9 to the Incorporated Agriculture Agreement, as set out in Appendix C of Annex 4 to the Trade Agreement, shall be replaced by the following:
 - "1. This Annex shall apply for a transitional period, which shall end on 31 December 2024."
- 2. The following Paragraph shall be inserted after Paragraph 3 of Article 6 of Annex 9 to the Incorporated Agriculture Agreement, as set out in Appendix C of Annex 4 to the Trade Agreement:
 - "4. In order to strengthen cooperation on equivalence and aiming to maintain and develop their close trade and economic relations, the Parties may consider establishing a procedure for recognition of equivalence based on relevant organic regulations, production rules and control arrangements. Such a procedure may include, inter alia, the consultation process, information requirements, appropriate timeframes, and the respective responsibilities of the importing and exporting parties. The Parties shall determine the most appropriate form of any such procedure."
- 3. The following text shall be inserted at the end of Appendix III of Annex 9 to the Incorporated Agriculture Agreement, as set out in Appendix C of Annex 4 to the Trade Agreement:

"9) Global Trust Certification Ltd (GB-ORG-16)

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Telephone: (+353) 42 932 0912

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Email: eoghan.stedman@saiglobal.com

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4. The following text shall be inserted at the end of Part 2 of Appendix IV of Annex 9 to the Incorporated Agriculture Agreement, as set out in Appendix C of Annex 4 to the Trade Agreement:

"Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, in so far as it applies to the United Kingdom in respect of Northern Ireland under the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland to the Agreement on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community."

5. This Decision shall enter into force on 31 December 2022.

For the Joint Switzerland-United Kingdom Committee on Agriculture

The Chair and Head of the Swiss Delegation

The Head of the United Kingdom Delegation

Bern, 20.06.2022

Place, Date

London, 21/06/2022

Place, Date

Michèle Däppen

Rose McFarlane